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CHILDRENS PLAYGROUNDS IN BOSTON

*An Evaluation of
SPACE & LOCATION*

CITY
PLANNING
BOARD

Boston, Mass.
1948

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* Mr. Turley is also Chairman of the Boston Board of Recreation.

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FRONTISPIECE. Above: To the 5,000 children who reside in this crowded part of East Boston are available only 4 acres of public playground space, while below: 13.66 acres on J. J. Ryan Playground (Charlestown) are almost completely surrounded by uninhabited area and are accessible to only 395 children.





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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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November 9, 1948.

Honorable James M. Curley,
Mayor of Boston,
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

The City Planning Board submits herewith a report on "Children's Playgrounds in Boston". This study has been carried on during the past few years, subject to many interruptions of lengthy periods as the greater urgency of other work permitted. The importance of the playgrounds study, however, should not be underestimated, for there is involved a heavy stake both in human and property values.

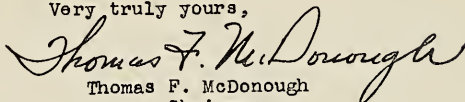
The study was originally intended to be a first step in the preparation of a comprehensive master recreation plan. As the work progressed it was realized that the whole undertaking was a prodigious one, requiring an outlay of time and personnel which the present limited planning staff will not permit. The scope of the report presented herewith is, therefore, confined to only one phase of recreation planning: a determination of the adequacy of existing children's playgrounds from an area or space viewpoint only. The City Planning Board, almost from its inception, has recognized the need for such a study, the benefits from which are fairly obvious.

Honorable James M. Curley

November 9, 1949.

Serious deficiencies in the present playground system have been noted in the report and corrective measures, both short-term and long-range, have been proposed. In addition, a search has been made for vacant land in all sections of the City to ascertain whether the means exist for alleviating the shortage of public playground space revealed by this study. In many cases untended vacant land serves to blight a neighborhood while, if improved and cared for, it would be an asset. The Planning Board believes that as a matter of policy the City should acquire and develop vacant lands which can be demonstrated to be useful additions to the playground system. It is hoped, therefore, that action will be taken in the near future on both the general and specific recommendations of this report.

Very truly yours,


Thomas F. McDonough
Chairman



FOREWORD

From 1790 the beginning of each decade has been a time for the taking of a national census, a time to record again the fact that an increasingly higher proportion of the American people had become city dwellers. This migration constitutes the really great social revolution of modern times. Our civilization will rise or fall in the measure by which we succeed or fail in solving the problems of the new, urban society.

One of the more difficult among these social problems is that of providing for children's needs. This is the direct responsibility of diverse elements in society—parents primarily, but also teachers and public officials, as well as social and religious organizations. For more than one hundred years the formal education of the young has been regarded as essentially a public responsibility, and the public school has become a symbol of the social conscience of America. In more recent years has come a realization that big-city life has laid down further demands for the adequate development of youth; and so the public school is finding its socially necessary complement in the children's public playground.

For sixty years Boston has been acquiring a miscellaneous collection of playgrounds at a cost of several millions of dollars. They were neither planned nor developed as a system. Up to the present time opinions have differed regarding

the adequacy of Boston playgrounds. It is contended on the one hand that "*It is Boston, . . . where, despite a magnificent park system, thousands of children still must play on sidewalks*", ("Massachusetts, A Guide to Its Places and People," Federal Writers' Project, 1937), and on the other that "*Into the hands of the people of Boston was handed . . . a splendid playground system. Recreation must take its place with the home, the church, and the school, if juvenile delinquency is to be properly combatted. There are sufficient playgrounds . . . to carry on the work*", (Report of Mayor's Committee on Juvenile Development, 1945).

More than a casual appraisal is required to determine the adequacy of the playground system; like any other measuring job it requires the adoption of standards and of rules to govern their application. It requires, moreover, a careful tabulation and an imaginative presentation of the results.

It involves a determination of which Boston children are "served" or "unserved" by public playgrounds, according to the standards adopted. A word or two of caution is necessary here. The standards employed are what the City Planning Board believes to be the irreducible and practical minima, with which to measure the adequacy of existing playgrounds but not necessarily what the Board would be happy to recommend for the development of a future system. Where children are indicated as "served", it is meant that a sufficiency of public playground space is accessible to such children, and not that these play areas are properly designed or equipped, or that attractive programs, competently supervised, exist thereon. Similarly, one must not conclude that children shown as "unserved" have no alternative but to play in the streets; private open spaces may be available to such children, or even public areas not designated as playgrounds. This report is intended to be a basis for further and more detailed study of the recreation problem. *It is a first step toward the development of a master recreation plan and a background for evaluation of specific proposals for changes in the playground system.*

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

1. Although it is universally recognized that schools and playgrounds should be developed as an integral, joint system, lack of coordinated planning in Boston has resulted in two systems, each independent of the other, and neither capable of rendering satisfactory recreation service to all of the children.

2. Only 62% of Boston public schoolyards are so located or are of such size as to be considered useful components of a playground system, while 40% of Park Department playgrounds are not large enough to provide a minimum of space for children who might normally be regarded as served by them.

3. Although the present sum total of playground area in Boston is sufficient to provide for every child in the city the minimum standard of space employed in this study, serious deficiencies exist, nevertheless, owing to a faulty distribution of that area.

4. Indicative of inefficiency in playground location is the fact that 20% of the schoolyards and 42% of the playgrounds are inaccessible to a degree because surrounded by areas considerable parts of which are devoted to nonresidential uses.

5. At present, a minimum of playground space is accessible to only 71.5% of Boston's child population. This space is located on 122 public schoolyards and 93 playgrounds, mostly under jurisdiction of the Park Department. Most of the 28.5% of children presently unserved could be provided for by the strategic location of a minimum of 52 new playgrounds.

6. Although no exact method is known whereby efficiency of the existing system may be measured, various *approximate* methods used in this study indicate the efficiency rating to lie somewhere around 50%.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. The efforts of the city should be directed toward the following objectives:

A. *Short-term:*

1. The most efficient use possible of the existing system by concentration of funds and effort on the most effective playgrounds, as shown by analysis of space and location.

2. Expansion of the present system to provide service for the more significant concentrations of children not now served.

B. *Long-range:*

1. Gradual amalgamation of school and playground facilities; and

2. A relocation of present playground acreage to achieve a more scientific and balanced distribution of play space, reasonably related to actual requirements based upon child population density.

II. Since these objectives can be reached only through effective application of sound planning, present laws should be amended to provide that before any officials of the city shall act irrevocably to commit the city to the purchase, sale or conveyance of municipally owned or other lands, the matters shall be referred to the City Planning Board in sufficient time to enable the Board to study the said matters and report thereon to the Mayor.

III. No change is here considered, at this time, in the present administrative arrangement whereby playground facilities are under the divided jurisdiction of park and school authorities.

IV. Legislation, statutory or by ordinance, is recommended to provide that proceeds from the sale of park or recreation properties must be used for purchase of new park and recreation properties.

V. Legislation is urged whereby the city may be authorized to borrow a substantial sum to be expended over a period of years for further development of the playground system as opportunity affords.



FIG. 1. Franklin Field (including the portion devoted to temporary housing) is the largest "playground" in Boston, having an area of 60 acres. This bountiful service is provided in a section which is otherwise generously endowed with recreation space.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS IN BOSTON

AN EVALUATION OF SPACE AND LOCATION

Joseph Lee, a Bostonian, and "Father of the American Playgrounds", once observed,

"The thing that most needs to be understood about play is that it is not a luxury but a necessity. It is not simply something that a child *likes* to have; it is something that he *must* have if he is ever to grow up. It is more than an essential part of his education; it is an essential part of the law of his growth, of the process by which he becomes a man at all."

Play is as old as creation itself. Play on public areas specifically designated for that purpose has become important only in more recent years. In earlier days youthful Bostonians enjoyed the benefits of plentiful open spaces and comparatively safe streets. There was less leisure time; formal education ended and employment began earlier in life than at present. The need for public playgrounds was not urgent. Boston's first public playground, the Common, was intended more as a training ground for soldiers and a grazing ground for cattle than as a playing field for the colonial boys.

Clipper ships and machine industry spurred the growth of the city and soon open areas were swallowed up by factories and business houses, or by new residences constantly needed to house a seemingly perpetual increase in population. In 1810 the population of the old city, Boston Proper, was 32,896; by 1910 it had grown to 193,274. During the same period the density of population increased from about 60 persons to 200 persons per gross (residential) acre. With the coming of the trolley car and automobile, escape to the more spacious suburbs became possible. The streets, on the other hand, became hazardous and were mostly lost as public play spaces for the children.

Meanwhile, public responsibility for elementary education had become predominant, and school attendance was made compulsory. An inevitable consequence was that a public concern

for the proper physical and character development of children would follow. It has been said that the public playground had its beginning in America when, in 1886, sand piles intended for play purposes were placed on three different locations in Boston. Joseph Lee writes that ". . . the next year there were ten and in 1900 there were twenty-three. Besides the sand-box there was in each of these sand gardens some shade and also a kindergartner, completing the three essentials, and every kind of children's game was carried on, even baseball in some of the bigger yards. And there was sewing on the doll's dress and on perforated cards and the making of scrap books and other marvels.

"Down to the last decade of the nineteenth century," continues Mr. Lee, "the principal playground for bigger boys, apart from the Common, was the empty lot. The lots were not so bad if there had only been more of them. In the crowded districts they were very few." Realizing that the "great omission in our playground system was still the playground," Mayor Josiah Quincy (1896-1899) set to work "in a characteristically radical way to make up this deficiency. Through his efforts a bill was passed by the Legislature in 1898 providing that half a million dollars might be spent by the Park Commissioners in creating a 'system of playgrounds' for the city. This money was . . . skillfully and judiciously expended, and soon we had some twenty-two local big boys' playgrounds,—i.e., big enough for baseball—in different parts of the city, one hundred and seventy acres in all."

This legislative act (chapter 412, Acts of 1898) appears to be the only real attempt to develop a coordinated system of playgrounds, as such. Subsequent additions to the playground system were mostly of the piecemeal variety. In general, the desirability of each proposed playground was considered more on the basis of its usefulness relative to its immediate environs, rather than its efficiency as

an integral part of a comprehensive design for the whole community. A playground system, such as it is, has evolved, nevertheless.

It happened often that the new playgrounds were acquired after recommendation by the City Planning Board. The Board, in fact, showed an early interest in studying recreation. In its first annual report, for the year 1914, the following may be found:

"It was felt that one need was for a systematic study of the recreation facilities of the city. These seem to overlap in some sections while other sections are almost unprovided for. An effort was made to undertake such a recreation survey in co-operation with a number of private organizations, but the hard times made it seem an unfavorable moment and the plan was at length postponed."

Again, in the annual report for the year 1916, it is stated that

"The City Planning Board recognizes the question of playgrounds as one of the most essential features in the life of the community. Opportunities for play are scarcely less important and necessary for its proper development than opportunities for work. It is a recognized fact that the statistics of juvenile delinquency show a marked decrease when combated with adequate, properly regulated, and accessible playgrounds. With this in mind the playground problems which have come before us for attention have met with the most earnest consideration."

Since 1914 sixty new playgrounds have been added to the Boston system, twenty of them recommended by the City Planning Board. Today the city has a total of 104 playgrounds* under control of the Park Department, including 656 acres, and ranging in size from one-twentieth of an acre to sixty acres. The development of this system appears as a notable achievement, when one remembers that it has taken place in little more than half a century.

On the other hand the idea that public school grounds should be developed for neighborhood play purposes has been slow to take hold in Boston. Recreational and educational authorities

both agree that the most advantageous location for a children's playground is at or adjoining the site of the elementary school. The modern trend is to regard organized recreation as a necessary part of a whole education. The Strayer Survey of the Boston Public Schools in 1944 emphasized this fact in its comment,

"One cannot contemplate the Boston school plant without being forcibly impressed by the striking inadequacy of the sites in general. Building after building has not sufficient land for the simplest play or for any defensible program of physical education and recreation . . . the current standards . . . stipulate that the minimum area of the yard shall not be less than *thirty square feet per pupil*. There is more area per pupil than that *inside* a school building."

In spite of these limited sites the School Department has, over the years, used certain of its yards as playgrounds, and they must be reckoned as part of the whole system. A field check has shown that 122 public elementary or junior high school yards are large enough to permit the development of a limited play program for younger children.

One hundred and four Park Department playgrounds comprising 656 acres, 122 schoolyards with 50 acres — these are the basic elements of the Boston playground system. They have been acquired during a period of sixty years or more. During that time concepts of the character and importance of playgrounds have changed considerably. It is now time to pause and evaluate the Boston system in the light of the latest thought on the subject. It is only through such a study that the needs of the future can be estimated and met. Such questions as the following naturally arise:

Are there enough children's playgrounds in Boston?

If not, where should the new ones be located?

Are the existing playgrounds properly located?

Are they of the proper size?

To how many children are they accessible and to how many are they not?

How efficient is the present system in meeting the requirements of the children?

What long-term policies should the city adopt in order to improve the system?

* Only 83 of these playgrounds, including 620 acres, have been included in this study. Those not included are too small to provide even the minimum of service, or were acquired after completion of the study, or were rejected for other reasons.

It is questions such as these which a playground study must seek to answer. These are considerations of no small importance. The city has invested in Park Department playgrounds alone at least \$8,000,000. Playgrounds must be considered in respect to their relationship to other elements of community development. For example, as already pointed out, playgrounds and elementary schools should be on the same or adjoining sites, consequently the planning of a school system and the planning of a playground system should be undertaken jointly. A good playground, well located, is

an asset to any neighborhood and should serve to stabilize good residential environs or as an inducement to rehabilitation in depreciated areas. The Planning Board is the agency of the city responsible for comprehensive planning of the city's future physical development. The design of playgrounds is of interest to the Board only in so far as it relates to considerations of space and location. Supervision, maintenance, equipment, and programming of play activities are more properly of interest to other city departments and are not considered in this report.



FIG. 2. Boston's crowded West End was solidly built up without regard for public recreation. The Charlesbank and Lomasney Playgrounds (arrows), developed later, are unsatisfactory for small children because they are remote and traffic bound.

THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

The children's playground is defined by the National Recreation Association as an area " . . . intended to provide opportunities for children, primarily between the ages of five and fifteen, to take part in a variety of fundamental and enjoyable play activities." This concept has been expanded during the last ten years and the "children's playground" has become the "neighborhood playground", an area intended for the enjoyment of persons of all ages. There is no indication that this idea, though meritorious, has been universally accepted.

All of the schoolyards and most of the playgrounds in Boston are so small that they must be considered as areas on which *only children's play* is permissible. In considering the adequacy of these areas, their capacity to fill the play needs of children is the criterion of efficiency.

The children's playground is, of course, only one element in a complete recreation system. The concept of a general pattern for urban recreation has been well developed in this country and, with minor variations, has been commonly accepted. The components of a complete system are too well known to need repetition here. It should be noted, only, that the really substantial requisites are neighborhood areas designed for daily use, on a year-round basis. These are of four types, described as follows:

Tot-lots, for the active play of children of preschool age.

The children's playground, for the active play of children of elementary and junior high school age, generally five to fifteen years.

The playfield, an active recreation area for adults.

The neighborhood park, intended for passive, leisurely recreation and beautification. (With a growing aged population more attention must be given to this type, especially in densely populated sections.)

The most important of these and the one to which the City Planning Board's attention has been first directed is the children's playground. There are logical reasons for this statement. Tot-lots cannot be regarded as a public responsibility under any and all circumstances. In densely populated sections there should probably be such a small play lot in every block. Since

the trend is toward large-scale ownership of rental dwellings the providing of these tot-lots is properly the duty of the owner. The disposition and size of tot-lots cannot be integrated into a general, city-wide plan but depend rather upon the detailed design of housing developments. In more sparsely populated sections the tot-lot may be wholly unnecessary, its functions being performed by the backyard or the vacant lot. The distribution of playfields can be planned in advance, but the plan could be comparatively flexible because since playfields are intended for adults, the standards determining their locations are less rigid than those for children's playgrounds, where travel distance is important.

Among public recreation areas the children's playground is pre-eminently important because it is the most numerous. More than any other type of open space it will serve as a nucleus for neighborhood development, hence its location must be more carefully selected. Finally, the playground is urgently needed for the group to whom recreation is indispensable, the growing children.

Before passing on to the details of the study there are a few points of interest to discuss. First is the decision to limit the scope of the study to *public* playgrounds. The development of a playground system is a public responsibility. This is borne out by the fact that there are few private playgrounds in Boston. Those that exist are mostly adjunct to settlement houses or other private agencies and are operated as semipublic facilities. Of some significance, too, is the fact that although parochial schools furnish education to 26% of Boston's children they do not, as a rule, provide area or facilities for active outdoor recreation beyond the minimum requirements of a yard for school recess use and in this respect they are not different than the public schools. Moreover, such private play areas as may exist, not being under public control, may be altered or eliminated at any time and hence could not be regarded as part of a permanent system. So, to repeat, this study has been limited to *public* playgrounds.

Universally acclaimed as necessary to the healthy development of city children, the playground is often pictured also as a deterrent to juvenile delinquency. Playgrounds, it is popu-

larly said, are less expensive than crime. There is ample testimony from juvenile judges and police officials to support this opinion. There is a minority view, however, that playgrounds do not certainly diminish juvenile crime.

A study of playgrounds and delinquency was made for the Chicago Recreation Commission in 1939. Five selected Chicago areas and 37,000 children were carefully studied for a full year. The conclusions were that

1. The incidence of delinquency among children who attended the playgrounds was lower than among those who did not; and
2. The recurrence of wrongdoing among previous delinquents who attended the playgrounds was less than among those who did not.

On the other hand there can be cited a California survey of two communities, one having playgrounds, the other having none, and yet the former having more delinquency than the latter.

There are many reasons for delinquency other than lack of playgrounds. And so it can never be stated with certainty that more playgrounds mean less juvenile crime. Recognizing this fact, some authorities urge that support for new recreation facilities be solicited for social, cultural, educational and physical reasons, as well as a deterrent to delinquency. The City Planning Board is in agreement with this view and recognizes the importance of recreation as a basic element in comprehensive planning.



FIG. 3. View of South Boston. This peninsula district has a high population density and more than 10,000 children, but only two playgrounds larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ acre. These are shown (arrows) at the periphery of the district, where they can operate only at a low rate of efficiency, as regards children. Open space for small children provided by modern housing design is evident in the Old Colony housing project.

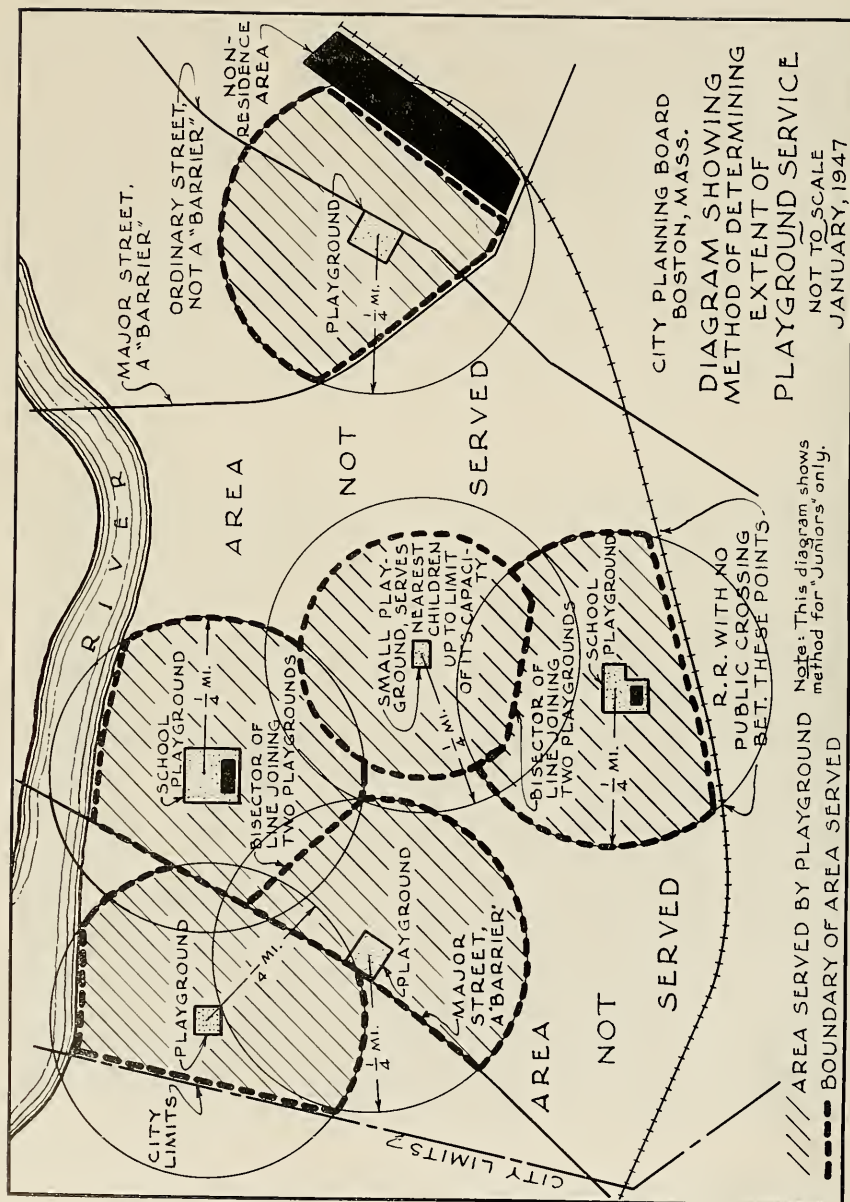


FIG. 4.

THE PLAYGROUND STUDY

OBJECTIVES AND METHOD

The function of a playground system is to provide opportunities for children to engage in active play. The adequacy of a system as regards space and location is measured by determining to how many children a sufficiency of playground space is available. This involves development and use of certain *standards* and a knowledge of certain *basic elements*, as follows:

- size and location of existing playgrounds,*
- distribution of school-age children,*
- maximum allowable walking distance, home to playground,*
- play area required for each child actually using the playground,*
- existence of traffic, topographic or other barriers between home and playground, and*
- an estimate of the probable peak load on the playground, expressed as a percentage of the whole number of children served by it.*

A study of these factors in detail is attempted elsewhere in this report; at the moment let us consider briefly the process from elementary data to final conclusions, as outlined in the following steps:

1. The work was undertaken by districts, the so-called "health and welfare areas", fifteen in number. In most cases these districts are logical, self-contained units, well adapted to planning purposes. Each district comprises a number of whole census tracts, making statistical analysis easy.
2. On individual district maps the principal nonresidential areas were blacked-out.
3. Existing schoolyards and playgrounds and the distribution of children six to fifteen years of age, the latter shown by dots, were then plotted.
4. The next step was a determination of which children are served by the schoolyards and playgrounds. This judgment rests on the proposition that *a child will naturally go to a playground which contains*

sufficient space for his play, which is not more than a reasonable distance from his home, and is the one nearest his home, except when it is already taken up by children living nearer to it than he, or when a barrier intervenes, in which case he goes to the one second nearest his home.

5. Given the standards of play space and walking distance, the distribution of children by dots, and the locations of playgrounds and barriers, the process is one of simple geometrical construction, as illustrated in Fig. 4.

Having determined which children are served, statistical tabulation of both served and unserved groups is possible. Such tables have been compiled for each district and for the city as a whole. The maps and tables provide a basis for conclusions regarding location and space deficiencies of the playground system and suggest the changes necessary to provide a complete and economical service for all the children.

EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS — THEIR LOCATIONS AND SIZES

Two kinds of public areas exist which can be regarded as available for use as children's playgrounds: those under the jurisdiction of the Park Department and already designated as playgrounds, and the yards of the public schools. The Park Department playgrounds number 104 and comprise approximately 656 acres, not counting golf courses and beaches. Although it is probable that not all of these were originally intended as *children's* playgrounds, most of them have been regarded in this study as available for such use. A list of these playgrounds giving name, location, year of acquisition, and area has been prepared by the Park Department and is the source of this information. In a few instances the gross acreage listed cannot be regarded as available for play because of topographic or other difficulties, and this has been taken into account.*

* In 1946 the Boston Housing Authority converted considerable playground area to sites for temporary veterans' housing.

The public schoolyards, mostly very small, have nevertheless been regarded as available when a field reconnaissance has indicated they are of sufficient size to support at least a limited play program for the *younger children*. No list showing the areas of schoolyard playgrounds appears to have been published by the authorities and the yard areas indicated in the tables of this study are the clear spaces around the school buildings which could conceivably be developed

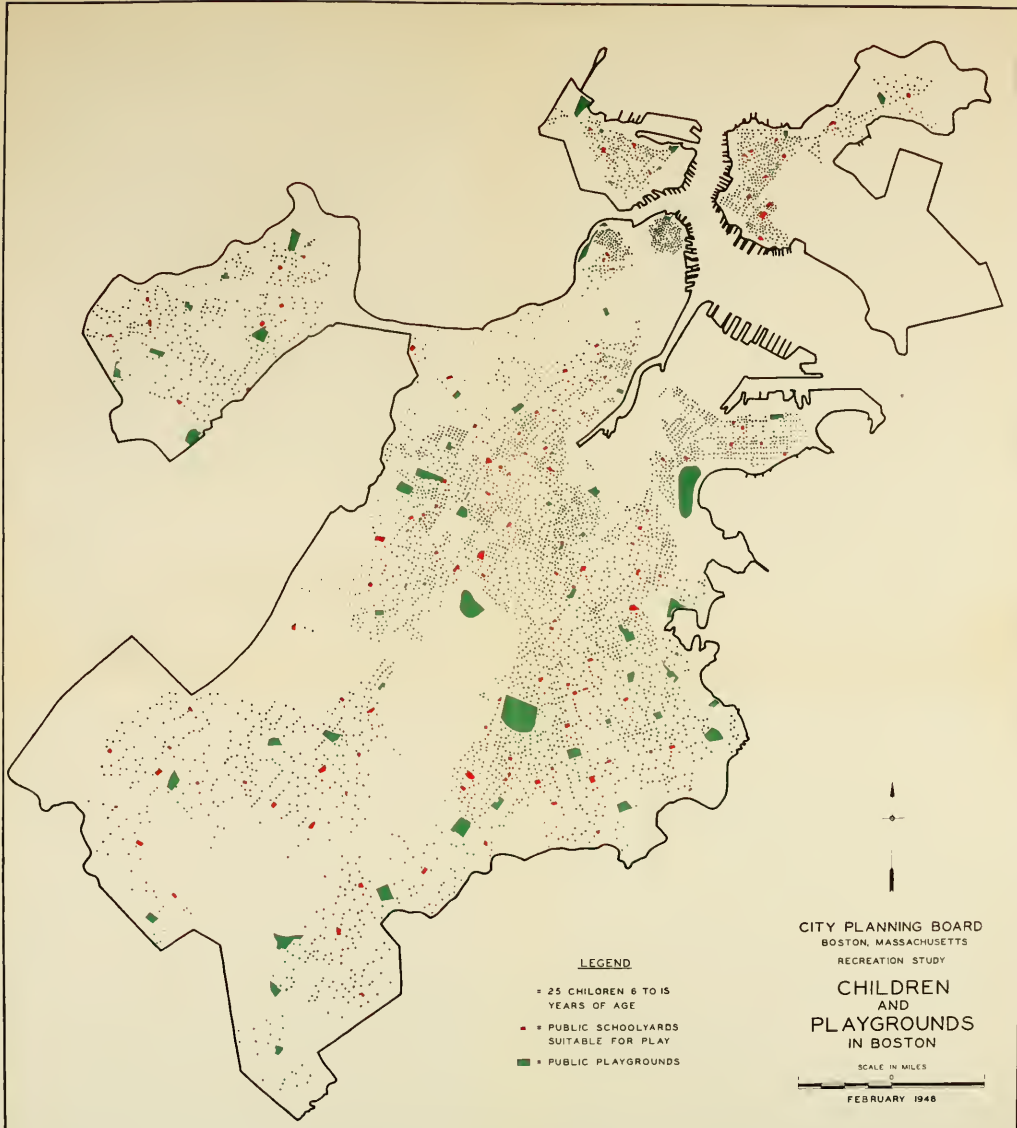
for play, as ascertained and measured roughly in the field. Some of these schoolyards are at present equipped and used for seasonal play activity.

For reasons of general policy, high school yards and public parks have not been regarded as components of a children's playground system.

City-wide distribution of Park Department playgrounds, schoolyard playgrounds and children is shown in Fig. 6.



FIG. 5. This densely populated portion of Dorchester depicts a condition not unusual in Boston. Within the $\frac{1}{2}$ square mile area shown live 2,000 children to whom no public play space is accessible.



LEGEND

• 25 CHILDREN 6 TO 15
YEARS OF AGE

■ PUBLIC SCHOOLYARDS
SUITABLE FOR PLAY

■ PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS

CITY PLANNING BOARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
RECREATION STUDY

CHILDREN
AND
PLAYGROUNDS
IN BOSTON

SCALE IN MILES

FEBRUARY 1948





FIG. 7. View of portion of Roxbury and Dorchester. Within the square mile area shown reside more than 8,000 children, nearly 7% of the total in Boston. Within the same boundaries are found only two public playgrounds with a total of less than 4 acres, or only $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% of the playground area in the city.

TABLE I
CHILD POPULATION DENSITY BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	Total Population, 1940	Child Population,* 1940	% of Total Population Represented by Children	Gross Resi- dential Acreage	Children Per Gross Residen- tial Acre
North End	19,698	3,536	18.0%	78	45.3
West End	27,278	3,248	11.9%	145	22.4
East Boston	56,928	11,223	19.7%	661	17.0
South Boston	54,364	10,137	18.6%	638	15.9
Charlestown	25,587	4,625	18.1%	322	14.4
Roxbury	107,002	19,082	17.8%	1,761	10.8
South End	52,442	4,642	8.9%	483	9.6
Dorchester, North	124,223	20,821	16.8%	2,257	9.2
Brighton	63,367	8,203	12.9%	1,431	5.7
Jamaica Plain	37,294	5,905	15.8%	1,046	5.7
Dorchester, South	77,350	12,221	15.8%	2,290	5.3
Roslindale	38,278	5,520	14.4%	1,484	3.7
Back Bay	39,502	1,583	4.0%	528	3.0
Hyde Park	25,192	4,648	18.5%	1,825	2.6
West Roxbury	19,476	3,321	17.1%	1,560	2.1
City Total	767,981	118,715	15.5%	16,509	7.2

* Adjusted to allow for public housing built and sites cleared since 1940.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD POPULATION

To measure the adequacy of the existing playground system requires a knowledge of where the children live and how many of them there are. The United States Census of 1940 gives population figures for various age groups in each of the 155 census tracts in Boston. It is commonly agreed that the age-range applicable to children's playgrounds is identical with that of the elementary and junior high schools, on the average, six to fifteen years.

A subdivision of this range becomes necessary in view of our decision to regard the schoolyards as available for play areas suitable only for the smaller children. This idea finds support in the recommendations of the National Recreation Association which distinguish between the play needs of older and younger children as follows: " . . . older children are interested primarily in . . . games requiring considerable space . . . when they are allowed to use a small play area . . . they monopolize the space or their play is likely to prove a hazard to the younger ones," (*"Recreation,"* August, 1934, p. 236), and " . . . older children require much more space than do younger ones for their active play" (*"Recreation,"* September, 1934, p. 285).

Playgrounds serving children up to eleven years of age are referred to by the N.R.A. as "junior playgrounds". This term we have borrowed and now define "*juniors*" as children 6 to 11 years, inclusive, and "*seniors*" as children 12 to 15 years. These are approximately the ages of children attending the elementary and junior high schools respectively.

Under average conditions "*juniors*" would outnumber "*seniors*" in the ratio of three to two because the span of years, six to eleven, inclusive, number six, while that of twelve to fifteen numbers four. For the whole city the census of 1940 indicates that of the playground age group approximately 58% are "*juniors*" and 42% are "*seniors*". In plotting the distribution of children on the map it has been found convenient to let one dot represent a total of five children. Three of these may thus be regarded as "*juniors*" and two as "*seniors*".

The census gives the number of children for each census tract. The distribution of children for each tract could be shown by a uniform assignment of the dots over the inhabited areas in the respective tracts. This method would produce serious errors since some tracts do not have a uniform population density. A block-by-block distribution of population by age groups based upon the Massachusetts Census of 1935 was published by the City Planning Board in 1938 under the title, "*The People of Boston*". It was assumed that tract by tract and block by block the distribution of children in 1940 followed the pattern of 1935, or more specifically, if a block provided the type of housing suitable to families with children in 1935 it was probably inhabited by similar people five years later. On the maps, therefore, each census tract contains sufficient dots to correspond with the actual count of children in 1940, but distributed in proportion to the block densities of 1935. Care has been taken to place these dots in the residential areas only.

At the present time there are eight public housing projects in Boston. In 1940, when the census was taken, only one was in existence; the sites of the others were either wholly or partially vacant. In the project which existed at that time the children were 18.75% of the total population. Applying this same percentage to the present total population of the other public housing projects gives the number of children in these areas. These adjustments have been made. Likewise, the sites of two future projects, inhabited in 1940 but vacant today, have been indicated on the maps as vacant areas. Because of these adjustments the child population totals given in the statistical tables of this report do not check with the totals given in the report of the census. The difference, however, is not important in this study.

The pattern of child population density for the entire city is shown on the map in Fig. 6, where it can be viewed in relation to the distribution of playgrounds and schoolyards. Table I is a statistical summary of child population for the various districts of the city.

PLAY SPACE REQUIRED PER CHILD

In the development of space standards the first problem to be resolved is whether a single standard can be made applicable to the entire city. Children in densely populated districts like the North End do not have alternatives to play on a public playground equal to those enjoyed by children in the more sparsely inhabited sections. Hence, a first impulse might be a decision to employ a higher space standard in the congested districts. This would be offset by the realization that the scarcity and high cost of open spaces in the densely built up areas dictate a reluctant acceptance of lower standards. The most important point to bear in mind, however, is that *a sensible space standard will relate to children present and playing on the playground.* The needs and desires of such children will not vary appreciably from one district to another, i.e., just as many in each case will want to play ball, go wading, or skate. Hence, *it has been decided to use the same space standard in all districts of the city.*

Space requirements are commonly given by authorities in acres per thousand of population. This method fails to consider that playgrounds are not intended for the whole population but for the children, that the proportion of children to the total is by no means a constant but varies within wide limits, and that different cities have different requirements. For example, in proportion to their respective total populations, there are five times as many children in East Boston as in Back Bay, while a comparison between individual census tracts shows a far greater difference. Table I shows a comparison of child population densities for all the districts, figures which speak for themselves. The adequacy of a playground system is measured by the extent to which it provides an amplitude of space and accessibility to the children for whom it is intended. This can be decided only on the basis of square feet per child present and playing on the playground.

Some authorities have set up such area-per-child standards, upon which there is no close agreement. None of these is acceptable for this

study because they represent averages based upon conditions at variance with our own.* For example, the space requirement of the N.R.A.'s "standard playground", intended for the use of six hundred children, is given as 270 square feet per child. The facilities provided on this playground are of such a character as to offer a satisfactory program only when "juniors" outnumber "seniors" in the ratio of about five to three. In fact, however, the ratio of "juniors" to "seniors" is not fixed, but variable, being affected by the practical limitations to the areas served by the individual playgrounds. In addition, schoolyards are obviously suitable for "juniors" only and, of course, no standard which is related to the much larger requirements of "seniors" would be applicable thereto. Even under "ideal" conditions, where a general playground existed in the center of a wholly residential area and traffic or other "barriers" did not exist, it could not be regarded as serving five "juniors" for every three "seniors" because the longer walking distance tolerable for the older group would make the playground accessible to twice as many "seniors" as "juniors."† All of this leads to the conclusion that separate standards for "juniors" and "seniors" must be established.

A rational method of determining these standards follows: Playgrounds should provide

* It should be recognized at the outset that space standards appropriate for design of new playgrounds in new neighborhoods where land costs are low are not adaptable to older cities, like Boston, where the problem is otherwise.

† Let us assume that we have a general children's playground in the heart of a residential area over which the child population is uniformly distributed and that 58% are "juniors" and 42% are "seniors" (as per city-wide totals for 1940). If the effective service radius for "juniors" is taken as $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and that for "seniors" as $\frac{5}{12}$ mile, then the respective areas served are in the ratio of $(\frac{1}{4})^2 : (\frac{5}{12})^2$, or 36:100. For convenience, assume the total number of children within $\frac{5}{12}$ mile radius to be 100; then 36 are within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the playground. Of these 36, 58% or 21 are "juniors," and 42% or 15 are "seniors." The total number of "seniors" served by the playground, however, is 42% of 100 or 42. Under these conditions twice as many "seniors" as "juniors" will be served by the playground.

for a varied but balanced program of play.* Activities fall into three general categories, each having its own distinctive characteristics and requirements. Hence, *it is usual for playgrounds to be divided into three general sections: an apparatus section, a section for miscellaneous equipment and games or activity of the unorganized, individual type, and an area for organized games and sports.* It is clear that the first and third sections comprise activities usually requiring specific dimensions, while those of the second section are variable. *In addition to these three sections there must be provision for a shelter house, fencing, paths and landscaping.* The well designed playground will strike a balance among these various factors. Accordingly, *playgrounds have been designed for varying numbers of "juniors" and likewise for "seniors" and average area requirements per child have been calculated.* The details are presented in Table II.

*The National Recreation Association says: "Any area which is intended to serve as a children's playground . . . must provide for

1. Physical activities and team games commonly . . . recognized as essential to school . . . and playground programs.
2. Spaces and facilities required for these activities.
3. Other play interests . . . manual, music, dramatic, nature and craft.
4. Free play activities, such as group games, swinging, wading, etc.
5. Playground beautification.
6. Space for free circulation, paths and safety zones."

The objective of this work has been to provide a balanced design capable of meeting at the minimum level the normal play requirements of active children, while bearing in mind that Boston, already built up, must of necessity hold to such a minimum. *The 100 square feet average decided upon for "juniors" and the 375 square feet for "seniors" represent a minimum standard, used to weigh the adequacy of existing play areas.* Wherever the community can find it possible to provide additional space it is all to the good.

Typical designs for "junior" and "senior" play areas, based on these standards, are shown as Figs. 8 and 9. These are presented, not as precise patterns for the design of future playgrounds, but simply to show the practicality of the space standards which have been adopted in this study.

Every playground worthy of the name must provide a varied and balanced combination of facilities even though the children to be served are few. This means *no playground may be less than a certain minimum size.* The method used in this study to determine space standards leads to the conclusion that the minima should be 0.15 acre for "juniors" and 1.00 acre for "seniors."

A comparison of the standards employed in this study with the recommendations of others is shown in Table III. In this table our separate standards for "juniors" and "seniors" have been converted into a properly weighted average for the two in order that a comparison with the others might be made.

TABLE III
COMPARISON OF RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR PLAYGROUNDS

RECOMMENDED BY	RECOMMENDATIONS.				
	Age Range	Space and Minimum Size of Play Area	Radius of Service	% of * Total Served	Other
American Society of Planning Officials, 1943	5 to 15	3 to 7 acres; 150 square feet for each child playing at one time	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius		One playground at each elementary school
Cleveland City Plan Commission, 1944	5 to 15	3 to 7 acres; 1 acre per 1,000 population	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ mile radius; $\frac{1}{2}$ mile acceptable in low density areas		One playground for each neighborhood of 3,000-5,000 population, preferably adjacent to elementary school
Chicago Plan Commission, 1943		227 to 500 square feet per child, depending on the total number to be served. Minimum size, $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres.	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ mile radius		One per neighborhood preferably near school
Detroit City Plan Commission, 1943		5 to 7 acres; 250 to 500 square feet per child accommodated. One acre per 1,000 population	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius		
U. S. Housing Authority, 1939		75 to 440 square feet per child; 3 to 5 acres per 100 to 500 children			
National Recreation Association, 1934, 1943	5 to 15	1 acre per 800 population; 227 to 500 square feet per resident child, depending on total number to be served	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius	100%	
N. Y. Regional Plan Association, 1928	5 to 15	25 square feet per child within radius of service; 100 square feet per child present and playing	$\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius	25%	
Boston City Planning Board, 1948	6 to 15	For each child present and playing; 100 square feet for "Juniors", 6 to 11 years of age, and 375 square feet for "Seniors", 12 to 15 years, weighted average = 185 square feet for each child 6 to 15 years. For average conditions of entire city: 0.34 acre per 1,000 population, or 1 acre per 2,969 persons. Minimum sizes: 0.15 acre of play space for "Juniors", 1.00 acre for "Seniors".	$\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius for "Juniors", $\frac{5}{12}$ mile for "Seniors", except where limited by "barriers"	60% of all "Juniors", 40% of all "Seniors" within radius of service	

* Figure in this column is maximum percentage of all children resident within radius of service of playground who will probably be present and playing on the playground.

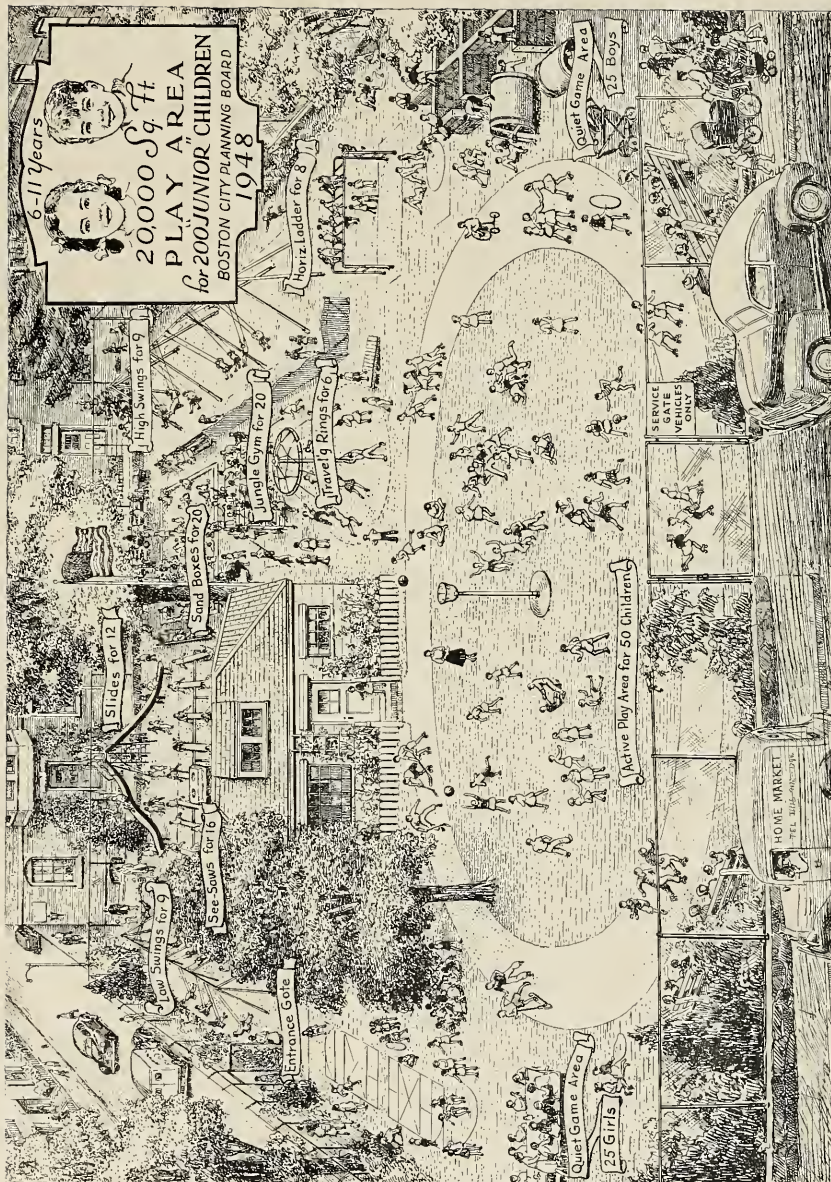


FIG. 8.

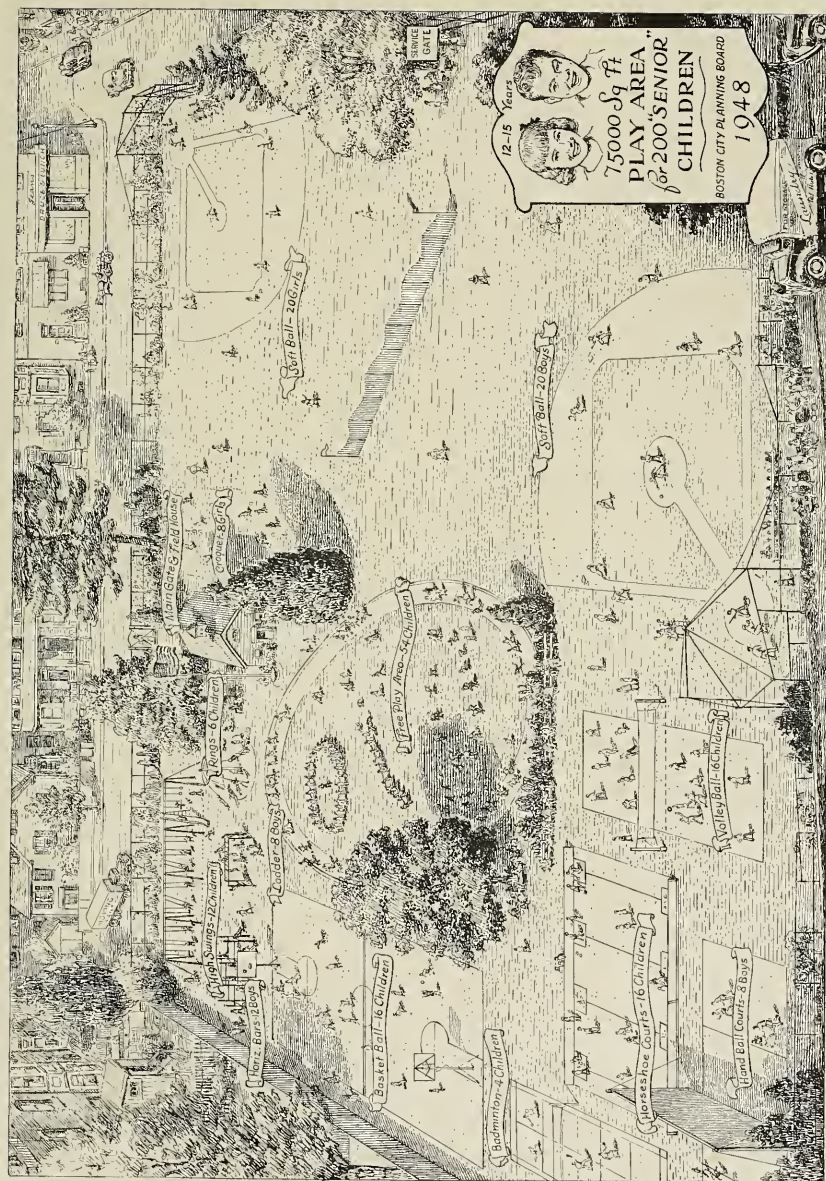


Fig. 9.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE WALKING DISTANCE

Most authorities are in agreement that the effective radius of service of a playground should find its limit somewhere between $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. The average of these recommendations appears to be about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile. This is a standard applicable to the whole playground-age classification; whereas we are considering the requirements of "juniors" and "seniors" separately. It has been decided, therefore, to make the lower limit, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, applicable to "juniors" and, in order that the *average* standard should remain at about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile, a radial limit of $\frac{5}{12}$ mile has been selected for "seniors".

For ease in computations, these distances are to be regarded as radii, not walking distances. For the usual conditions of a rectangular street system, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and $\frac{5}{12}$ mile are equivalent to maximum walking distances of 1,870 feet and 3,110 feet, respectively. The distance from home to playground is measured from home to that part of the playground nearest thereto.

Some authorities feel that the maximum distance standard for congested districts should be smaller than that for low density areas. The probable reasons are: first, that there are more frequent traffic hazards between home and playground in the densely populated sections; and second, when the load to be accommodated on a single playground becomes excessive it is better to provide service on additional play areas. However, child population density and traffic hazards conform to no reasonable pattern in Boston, and no logical basis can be found for a variance of walking-distance standards which would be other than purely arbitrary. Therefore, the same standards have been used for the entire city. *While this has proved expedient, it requires again a recognition that these standards represent only a tolerable limit, not a desirable norm upon which design of a future system might be based.*

TRAFFIC AND OTHER BARRIERS

A playground should not be located so that high-speed thoroughfares must be crossed by "junior" children seeking access to it. The real problem is how to decide which streets are dangerous. This is a factor of which the determination, regretfully, is still a matter of

opinion, notwithstanding traffic counts, accident data, etc. In this study, *wherever "juniors" are so situated that access to a public play area requires the crossing of a street which is deemed to be a traffic hazard, those "juniors" are regarded as not served.*

In every case the route from a child's home to the playground follows the existing streets. No short cuts across public or private property are regarded as available to lessen the necessary travel distance. Where a railroad right-of-way intervenes between home and playground, crossing is deemed possible only where made available by public ways. Railroads, therefore, must often be regarded as barriers. A similar part is often played by topography.

In the preparation of the maps showing "served" and "unserved" children allowance has been made for those cases where the intervention of "barriers" makes extra travel necessary.

PERCENTAGE OF ALL THE CHILDREN TO BE PROVIDED FOR

What is the maximum number of children for whom provision should be made on a playground? This can be expressed as a percentage of all the children who reside in the area tributary to the playground. Studies necessary to determine this percentage do not appear to have been made.

The report on "*Recreation and Delinquency*" by the Chicago Recreation Commission in 1942, indicated extent of participation in supervised recreation by the children of five communities. The figures given were not derived from circumstances identical with those in this Boston survey, but are useful in suggesting reasonable limits within which assumptions should fall. Some of the conclusions in the Chicago report follow:

For all five districts, involving a total of 37,106 children, only 62.4% participated in supervised recreation at any time during the year. Only 35.1% participated at any time during the spring season.

Participation by boys was much greater than that by girls, figures for the spring season being 46.4% of all the boys and 22.9% of all the girls.

Children over 14 years of age do not attend in as large numbers as those under 14.

The standards usually employed in planning playground systems do not, as a rule, mention probable maximum attendance. The National Recreation Association calls . . . "unsound and hazardous (the) practice of estimating the percentage of children who can be expected to be on the playground at a given time," and has derived its standard of space on a basis of playgrounds designed to provide for the actual play of specified numbers of children. The N.R.A. proceeds then to translate its individual space standard, 270 square feet per child, into a general standard of one acre for each 1,000 of total population. This latter standard, which seems to have been generally adopted, could only have been derived on the basis of 100% attendance on the playground.

The number of children who will go to a playground most likely is a function of the distance they must walk to get there, varying from a high percentage of those living in the playground's immediate environs to a low percentage of those living $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. Forced to use an arbitrary figure, we have selected 50% as the average maximum rate of attendance to be anticipated. That this is a generous allowance is suggested by the results of the Chicago study. That study, indicating a higher rate of attendance for younger children, supports our decision to use 60% for "junior" children and 40% for "seniors", averaging approximately 50% for both groups.

A modification of space standards so as to make them applicable to the total number of children resident, rather than children present and playing, now becomes possible. The 100 square feet for each "junior" present and playing becomes 60 square feet for each "junior" resident, while the 375 square feet for "seniors" becomes 150 square feet. These equivalents are the figures actually employed in the preparation of the maps showing extent of playground service. *These figures, when related to the other data and assumptions of this study, are deducible to the following additional equivalents:*

96 square feet for each resident child 6 to 15 years of age;

or

(1 acre for every 450 such children;)

or

0.34 acre for every 1,000 of total population;

or

1 acre for every 2,900 of total population.

These deductions make possible a direct comparison with the recommendations of others, shown in Table III.

MAPS AND TABLES

Use of basic data and standards by the method already described and illustrated in Fig. 4 has made possible the production of maps and statistical tables, included in this report, which show in detail the extent of playground service in the various districts, limited, of course, to considerations of space and location. With the sole exception of the factor of traffic and other "barriers", the method comprises elements which assure mathematical precision in the results. On the maps, therefore, *every child shown as "served" does, in fact, live within standard radius of a public play area on which there is sufficient space for his play.* Likewise, in the statistical tables, the children indicated as "served" by a particular playground live nearer to that playground than any other, and to this statement there is but one exception. This occurs when the playground nearest to a child's home is already filled to capacity with children who live nearer to it than he does; in such cases the child is regarded as served by the playground second nearest to his home and which otherwise meets the standard requirements.

THE IDEAL PLAYGROUND SYSTEM

The primary objective of this study is an evaluation of the playground system *as a system.* Complete conclusions require the setting up of a norm for purposes of comparison. This norm is a theoretically perfect system, designed to fit Boston as it exists today, and providing adequate and accessible play space for all of the children. The requisites of this model system for each district can be calculated readily if it is assumed that the pattern of population distribution in the district is uniform and of regular proportions. This is nearly true for the major portion of most of the districts. Hence, the figures for the theoretically perfect system may

be regarded as a close approximation of the *practical requirements* for a complete playground service.

The ideal pattern for development of a playground system calls for a series of general playgrounds for children of all ages, between which are interspersed, at the most favorable locations, smaller play areas providing additional and more accessible facilities for the smaller children.

Concepts relative to desirable capacities of elementary schools, and neighborhood limitations, coupled with the standards of walking distance and playground attendance already used in this study, lead to a belief that general playgrounds should not be designed for the active, simultaneous play of many more than 600 children. This number of children, according to the standards, might be expected as the usual maximum attendance in neighborhoods where child population density is about 6 children to the gross residential acre. This, incidentally, is not far from the present average for the entire City of Boston. In districts of greater density the playgrounds should be designed for the same maximum attendance, *i.e.*, about 600 children, but should be located at more frequent intervals. In more sparsely populated districts the element of maximum walking distance should govern, but the playgrounds might be of reduced size.

In keeping with the foregoing ideas the following general specifications for an ideal children's playground system in Boston have been calculated:

1. General playgrounds, intended for both "junior" and "senior" children, should range in size from at least 1.5 acres in sections lightly populated with children to at least 4.0 acres in districts where children are numerous; playgrounds intended for "junior" children only should vary in size from $\frac{1}{4}$ acre to $\frac{3}{4}$ acre.

2. Playgrounds should be located at or near the center of population of the areas they are intended to serve. In districts of average child population density or less, the effective radius of a playground should be taken as not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile for "juniors" or $\frac{5}{12}$ mile for "seniors". In districts of greater density the playgrounds should be located more frequently so that the probable peak load on a general playground will not greatly exceed 600 children.

A complete playground service for all Boston children, under present conditions, could be achieved with a minimum system of 117 "junior" playgrounds comprising 62 acres and 71 general playgrounds with 200 acres, if these facilities were properly distributed.

CONCLUSIONS

AS TO SPACE

Like Topsy, Boston's playground system "just grewed". As a result there is today no logical, reasonable, or equitable distribution of playground space. The full potential use of a schoolyard play area is obtained only when the yard is large enough to provide for the needs of all "junior" children who live within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius thereof and nearer thereto than to any other play area. Only 48 out of 198 schoolyards in Boston meet this requirement; indeed, only 122 of the 198 are so located or are of such size as to be considered useful components of a playground system at all. Of the schoolyards large enough to be useful, 94% are smaller than 1 acre; 73% are less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre. In many cases the space which can be regarded as available for play is not a single, homogenous area, but consists of fragments at the sides and rear of school buildings, and would present a serious problem of design to permit full use. Whether the number of children who can be cared for on some of the very small schoolyards would warrant expenditure for supervision is also open to question. Public schoolyards in Boston have one outstanding characteristic, — they are consistently small.

Park Department playgrounds, on the other hand, are marked by a variety of sizes. This is not in itself wrong if the size of each playground is reasonably related to the actual or potential demand upon it.

When properly located, the sizes of playgrounds should reflect, within limits, the density of child population in the surrounding area. Playground space distribution in Boston, therefore, should be variable, but within restricted limits. From an administrative point of view, uniformity of playground size is a desirable end in itself.

In contrast with this ideal of relative consistency in distribution of playground space, the Boston system is characterized by wide differences in play area allocation. This is indicated by the fact that whereas the median playground size is 2 acres, the arithmetic mean is 5.7 acres. The

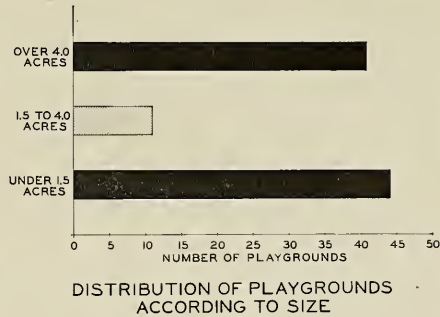


FIG. 10.

number of playgrounds in various categories of size is shown graphically in Fig. 10. It should be noted that although the ideal size of a general playground under average Boston conditions should be about 3.5 acres, the great majority in the existing system are much smaller or much larger than this.

A total of 96 playgrounds* is listed in this study as useful components of a children's recreation system. These vary in size from 0.17 acre at Troy street, South End, to 60 acres in Franklin Field. More important, however, is the fact that 34 of these playgrounds, representing 35% of the total, are not large enough to meet the actual demands upon them, as determined by the minimum standards of this study.

Inequality of playground space distribution is illustrated further by the following facts. According to the space standards used in this study, for every 1,000 children to whom playgrounds are accessible there should be a minimum of 2.2 acres of actual space. At present, 1,000 such children in the East Boston district have 3.3 acres, on the average, while those in South Dorchester have 9.8 acres, three times as much. It is generally true that the sections having the greatest density of child population have the

* Including nine under jurisdiction of Boston Housing Authority, one former school site, and one health center playground.

smallest share in the distribution of playground space. This is illustrated on the map of "Children and Playgrounds in Boston," Fig. 6.

Many Boston "playgrounds" are, in reality, also playfields, suitable for adult recreation. If the minimum area required for playfield use is taken as 7 acres, all *surplus* area on individual playgrounds amounting to 7 acres or more and not needed for the use of children may be regarded as playfield space. This surplusage amounts to approximately 300 out of 600 acres in the Boston playgrounds and schoolyards included within the scope of this study. Therefore, there are about 300 acres of public play area adapted to children's playground use. A comparison of this space with the theoretical requirements of the ideal system, already described, leads to the conclusion that *the present sum total of playground area in Boston is sufficient to provide for every child in the city the minimum standard of space employed in this study, but serious deficiencies exist, nevertheless, owing to a faulty distribution of that area.*

AS TO LOCATION

Maximum efficiency in playground location is obtained when the playground is at or near the center of population of the residential area served, when this served area does not overlap other such areas and when traffic or other "barriers" do not render the playground inaccessible. Efficiency of administration is also enhanced by locating the playground next to an elementary school. These should be among the guiding principles in selecting playground locations.

When a playground is located so that much of the area surrounding it is uninhabited the result is inevitable duplication in establishing necessary additional play areas. The map, "Children and Playgrounds in Boston," Fig. 6, shows numerous instances of this type of inefficiency. 20% of schoolyards and 42% of playgrounds are surrounded by areas considerable parts of which are devoted to nonresidential uses. In a few cases, such as the Barry Playground and Ryan Playground in Charlestown, the Smith Playground in Brighton, and the Rotch Playground in the South End, approximately three-fourths of the surrounding area is nonresidential and, as a consequence, these areas are of very limited use as children's playgrounds.

Traffic hazards, intervening between home and playground, likewise promote inefficiency by rendering playgrounds inaccessible. No accurate count of Boston play areas affected by such "barriers" is possible because of the lack of a precise definition of what constitutes a "barrier". However, the disadvantage in locating children's facilities in such a manner that most of the children for whom they are intended must cross such obstacles as Rutherford avenue, Sullivan square, or Commercial street will be obvious.

The Strayer Survey of the Boston Public School System, completed in 1944, found an " . . . overabundance of . . . inefficiently small buildings," and recommended elimination of many of these schools and consolidation of educational service by use of fewer but larger buildings. This inefficiency is reflected to the same degree in the recreational facilities afforded by the schools. The Park Department playgrounds also provide a duplication of service in some instances. Such duplication occurs whenever a child has a choice of two or more playgrounds within standard radius of his home. A certain amount of duplication of service is likely to occur in any system, of course, but wise planning could hold it to a minimum. Frequency of schoolyard and playground locations can be seen on the map of "Children and Playgrounds in Boston," Fig. 6.

Lack of coordination in playground planning and school planning is indicated by the fact that in only six cases are playgrounds located adjacent to schools. The mutual independence of the school and playground systems is the outstanding feature appearing on the "Children and Playgrounds" map. To correct this situation appears as a very difficult task.

In theory, all of Boston's children could be served by a system of about 188 playgrounds, 117 of them for "junior" children only and 71 for the combined use of "juniors" and "seniors." The present system, however, with 215 public areas available for play, still leaves a substantial number of children without any service whatsoever.

AS TO EXTENT OF PLAYGROUND SERVICE

Extent of playground service is presented in this report in the form of individual district maps and statistical tables. These maps show by

black and red dots the number and distribution of "junior" and "senior" children served or unserved by public playgrounds. The tables constitute an inventory of public play areas in each district, with the approximate number of children served by each such area.

The status of both "junior" and "senior" children in each district is shown on a single map, a typical example of which is the map of "Existing Outdoor Recreation for School-Age Children in the Charlestown District," Fig. 11. A complete set of these district maps is on file in the office of the City Planning Board. Their chief practical value is derived from the facility with which specific proposals for changes in the playground system can be evaluated.

Extent of playground service for the entire city is shown on two maps, Figs. 12 and 13. A statistical summary for all districts is also shown as Table IV, culminating in final figures applicable to all of Boston's children.

The total of children 6 to 15 years of age is estimated to be 118,715, of which 71,231 are "juniors" and 47,484 are "seniors". A sufficiency of playground space is accessible to 50,265 "juniors" and to 34,636 "seniors", 84,901 children in all. It may be said, therefore, that 70.6% of "juniors", and 72.9% of "seniors", or 71.5% of all children, are "served".

Among the larger districts, East Boston is most underprivileged, only 53% of its children being "served", while South Dorchester appears most favorably situated, with a rating of 90%. At the corresponding points among smaller districts are Back Bay (44%) and West End (95%).

The distribution of unserved children is sporadic for the most part, yet some significant concentrations do appear. The need for new playgrounds in such locations, especially when these areas are common to both "juniors" and "seniors", cannot be denied. By a graphical method it has been found that a *minimum of 52 new playgrounds, 33 for "juniors" and 19 for general use would suffice to eliminate the worst deficiencies in playground service, provided that*

the whole of the existing system was maintained intact. In some cases minor concentrations of unserved children could be accommodated by enlarging existing schoolyards or playgrounds. The pattern of population distribution is such, however, that no additions to or rearrangement of the existing system, as a practical matter, would render service to certain of the children not served at present. These children, only a very small fraction of the total, will simply find it necessary to travel farther in order to reach a public playground.

PLAYGROUND SYSTEM EFFICIENCY

If 215 existing schoolyards and playgrounds provide service for only 71.5% of Boston's children, whereas, 188 play areas would serve approximately 100% if properly distributed, how efficient is the present system? There are various ways of answering this question. One way is to say that since the system serves 71.5% of the children it is, therefore, 71.5% efficient. However, a system may serve only 71.5% yet be 100% efficient as far as it goes; all playgrounds might be of the correct size and in the right locations, but a deficiency might exist owing to an insufficient number of playgrounds.

Another method is presented in the following computations:

$71.5\% \text{ service} \div 215 \text{ playgrounds} = 0.333\%$
service provided by each existing playground

$100\% \text{ service} \div 188 \text{ playgrounds} = 0.532\%$
service provided by each ideal playground

$0.333\% \div 0.532\% = 62.6\%$ efficiency (of existing system).

Two other methods of computing efficiency have been tried, one giving a result of 51%, the other, 69%. Any efficiency figure can be, at best, an approximation; hence it is probably safe to say that the present Boston playground system is probably not more than 70% nor less than 50% efficient.

TABLE IV
SUMMARY OF STATISTICS ON CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

DISTRICT	CHILD POPULATION			CHILDREN SERVED				Total Playground Area (Acres)	Playground Area Per 1,000 of Total Child Population	Playground Area Per 1,000 of Children Served *
	Juniors		Total	Seniors		Total				
	Number	%		Number	%	Number	%			
Back Bay	948	635	1,583	288	30%	409	64%	6.14	3.9	8.8
Brighton	4,929	3,274	8,203	3,396	69%	2,702	83%	53.12	6.4	8.7
Charlestown	2,775	1,850	4,625	1,620	58%	1,294	70%	24.30	5.3	9.9
Dorchester, North	12,493	8,328	20,821	7,672	61%	6,755	81%	52.98	2.5	3.7
Dorchester, South	7,333	4,888	12,221	6,653	91%	4,338	89%	137.68	11.3	12.5
East Boston	6,734	4,489	11,223	3,829	57%	2,133	48%	19.55	1.7	3.3
Hyde Park	2,778	1,870	4,648	1,470	53%	1,120	60%	37.17	8.0	14.4
Jamaica Plain	3,543	2,362	5,905	2,982	84%	1,778	75%	19.59	3.3	4.1
North End	2,121	1,415	3,536	1,719	81%	1,160	85%	6.34	1.8	2.2
Roslindale	3,312	2,208	5,520	2,549	77%	1,454	66%	58.68	10.6	14.7
Roxbury	11,449	7,633	19,082	8,386	73%	5,262	69%	45.74	2.4	3.4
South Boston	6,089	4,048	10,137	4,170	68%	3,120	77%	89.13	8.8	12.2
South End	2,794	1,848	4,642	2,325	83%	1,252	68%	9.98	2.1	2.8
West End	1,949	1,299	3,248	1,787	92%	1,291	99%	19.53	6.0	6.5
West Roxbury	1,995	1,326	3,321	1,419	71%	568	43%	20.32	6.1	10.2
City Totals	71,242	47,473	118,715	50,265	71%	34,636	73%	600.25	5.1	7.1

* Computed by dividing playground area in each district by number of served children in that district. In isolated districts, like East Boston, Charlestown or Brighton, all served children are served by playgrounds within the same district. In contiguous districts, like Roxbury, Dorchester (North) and Dorchester (South), some of the served children are served by playgrounds in districts other than the one in which they reside; this fact is not taken into account in computing playground area per 1,000 served children for each district.

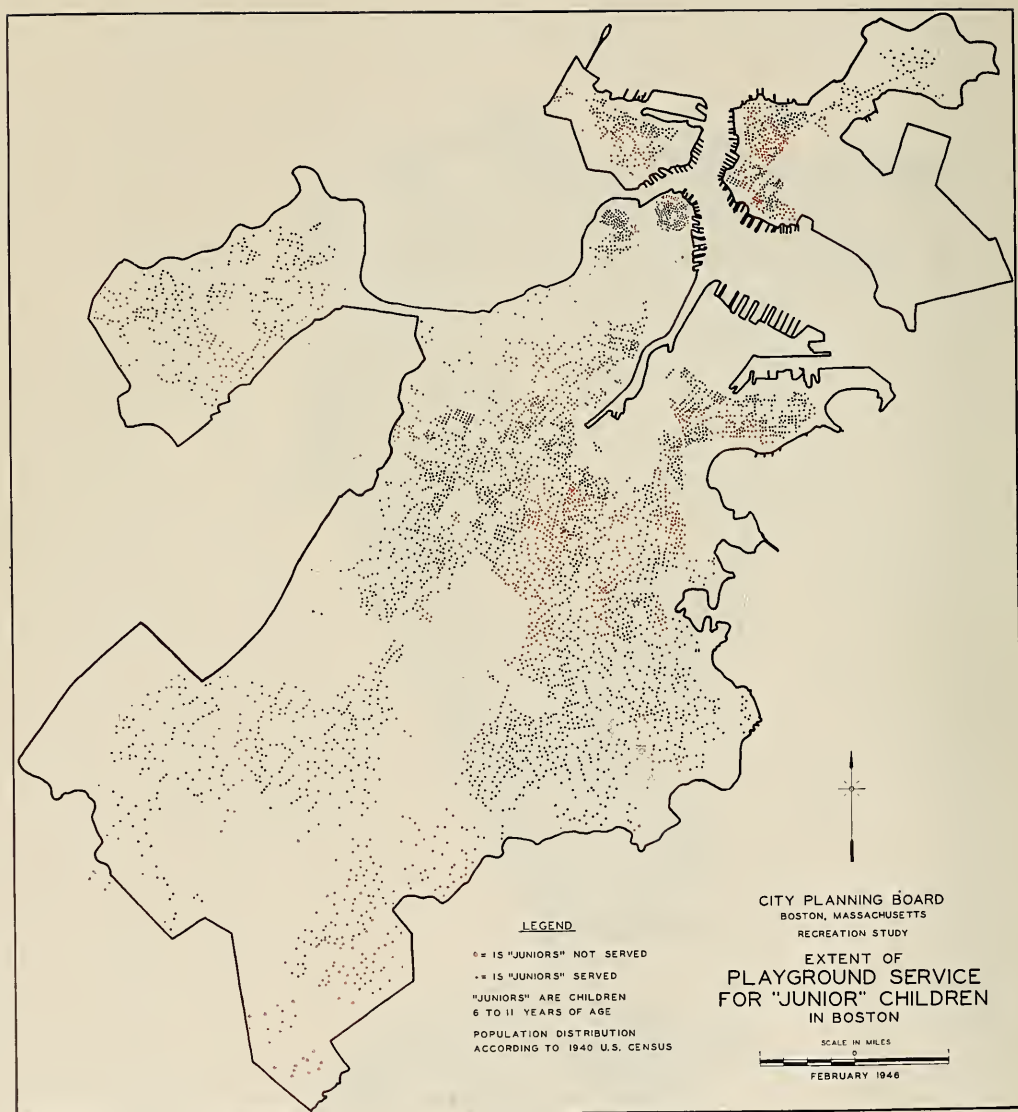


FIG. 12.

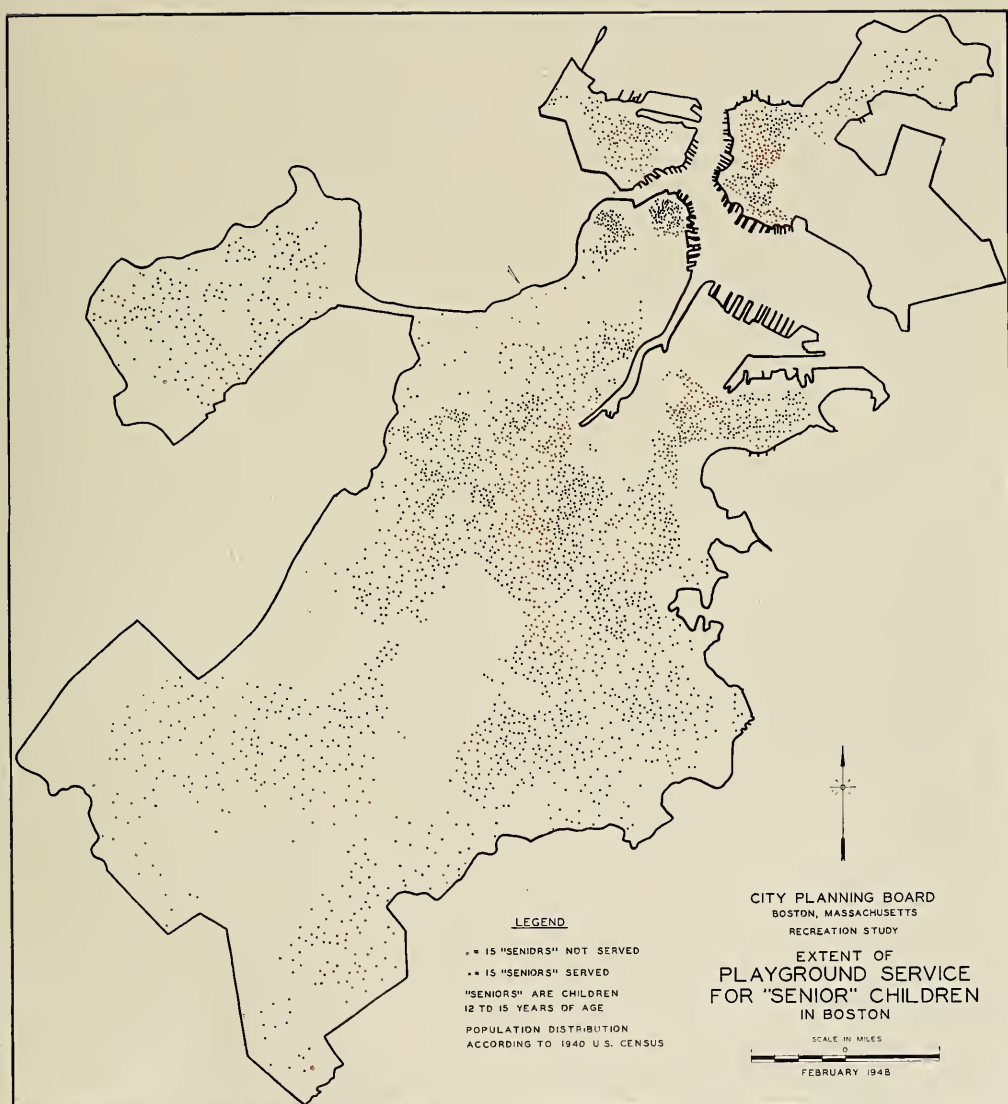


FIG. 13.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Serious deficiencies in the Boston playground system have been described in the conclusions of this report. The fulfillment of the purpose of this study requires the development of at least a general plan whereby these deficiencies may be eliminated. Recommendations must include both the ends for which the city must strive and the means by which those objectives may be attained. Objectives may be classified as short-term and long-range, as follows:

SHORT-TERM

1. The most efficient use possible of the existing system, by concentration of funds and effort on the most effective playgrounds, as shown by analysis of space and location.
2. Expansion of the present system to provide service for the more significant concentrations of children not now served.

LONG-RANGE

1. Gradual amalgamation of school and playground facilities; and
2. A relocation of present playground acreage to achieve a more balanced distribution of play space, reasonably related to actual requirements based upon child population density.

The means whereby these ends may be attained involve planning, administrative, legal, and financial considerations. A discussion of each of these follows.

PLANNING

In a large city like Boston playgrounds can render efficient service *only when they function as a system*. In order to function as a system *they must be planned as a system*. In a period of more than sixty years only one actual attempt has been made to build a playground system as such, and that lasted only five years and involved only a half-million dollars. In general, playgrounds have come into existence from time to time when the moment appeared opportune to make such public use of vacant parcels of

land. Often no other use existed for such lands, witnessed by the fact that several Boston playgrounds have been created on sites owned by the city through tax foreclosure.

About 20% of the sites selected for Park Department playgrounds did have the benefit of study by a planning agency, not as component parts of a system but to determine their merits as individual proposals. With regard both to desirability of location and proper relationship of size to the number of children served, these playgrounds appear, on the whole, superior to the general average of other playgrounds. Effective planning results in effective playgrounds.

Proper long-range planning of a playground system involves many considerations such as relationship to other elements in a general recreation plan, patterns of land uses, population distribution, transportation, schools, housing developments, etc. If planning is to be effective it must be centralized and coordinated. Under the law there is only one public agency specifically authorized and directed to plan comprehensively the future development of the city. That agency is the City Planning Board. If the benefits of over-all planning are to guide the future changes in the playground system the City Planning Board must be assured of a voice in such matters. The planning function is purely advisory and can be accomplished by voluntary cooperation with other public agencies and through the so-called power of "mandatory referral", which will be discussed in the section on legal considerations.

Whether the work is carried out by the City Planning Board or some other agency the emphasis should be upon the planning of a system, and should not take the form of occasional, unrelated considerations of individual proposals, as such.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION

It is not sufficient to plan a recreation system — somebody must be authorized and empowered to carry out the recommendations of the plan. Three municipal agencies already exist which

have a legitimate interest in the development of actual recreation programs — the School Committee, Park Department, and Board of Recreation. The school and park authorities have actual custody of and jurisdiction over the physical properties as well as supervisory and executive control over play programs; the Board of Recreation, created in 1945, was intended to formulate a general program of recreation and to put it into effect by coordinating the efforts of the public and private agencies concerned. This divided responsibility for public recreation is not unusual in large American cities and when properly coordinated may well be found advantageous.* The City Planning Board's chief concern is that ways and means should exist to bring about a proper distribution of playground areas.

Authorization for the acquisition and sale of both school and park properties already exists and, with certain changes, would suffice to make any desired alterations in the playground system. By the statutory provisions of chapter 351 of the Acts of 1929 the Superintendent of Schoolhouse Construction may request the Board of Street Commissioners to take property for school uses, as designated by the School Committee, and approved by the Superintendent of Public Schools. Under authority of chapter 259, Acts of 1906, a board consisting of the Mayor, School Committee, and Schoolhouse Commissioners may sell property which the School Committee, by majority vote, shall have determined to be no longer necessary for school purposes, and *the proceeds from such sales must be used for purchase of new school lands or erection of new buildings.*

Authorization to acquire or sell park and playground lands is found in the general provisions of the city charter, sections 2 and 31. Appropriations for purchase of lands originate with the Mayor and must meet with the approval of two-thirds of the City Council. All sales of land must likewise be approved by two-thirds of the Council. *The city charter does not provide, as does the law governing sale of school*

properties, that funds received through sale of public lands must be expended for new property of a similar character.

Nevertheless executory powers exist which are broadly sufficient to carry out changes in the playground system. The City Planning Board advocates no major alteration in this setup but recommends only such changes as would enable the existing agencies to carry out effectively the provisions of a general plan, through coordinated effort and with adequate financial support.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

In moving toward the short-term and long-range objectives already outlined the city must find a way to make playground planning effective. It must also be able to finance the necessary changes in the playground system. Amendments of existing statutes and enactment of new legislation are suggested.

The City Planning Board recommends that chapters 259 of the Acts of 1906, 486 of the Acts of 1909, and 351 of the Acts of 1909 be amended, to provide that before the city is irrevocably committed to the purchase, sale, or conveyance of municipally owned or other lands, the matters shall be referred to the City Planning Board in sufficient time to enable the Board to study the said matters and report thereon to the Mayor. This would conform with the so-called "mandatory referral power", adopted by many American cities. Such amendments would not place control over purchase and sale of land in the hands of the City Planning Board; they are proposed merely in order that individual proposals may be measured against and coordinated with the other elements of a comprehensive plan.

The City Planning Board recommends further legislation, statutory or by ordinance, to provide that all proceeds from the sale of park and recreation lands shall go into a special fund to be used exclusively for purchase of new park or recreation lands. Such a provision should encourage the making of changes necessary for a better distribution of playground acreage.

Extensive acquisition of new playgrounds and improvement of existing ones cannot be achieved only by selling off surplus areas, however. A playground system represents a capital asset of the city and should be financed as such. Funds

* On the other hand, it seems possible that recreation will suffer when it is under the control of agencies whose primary functions consist of other and larger responsibilities.

for acquisition and improvement of individual playgrounds have usually been raised through sale of municipal bonds as the occasion demanded. The City Planning Board proposes that the attempt to build a *playground system*, begun under chapter 412, Acts of 1898, be revived by suitable new legislation authorizing the raising through bonds of a substantial sum to be expended over a specified number of years for a planned redevelopment of the system. In this way the city would be in a continuing position to act constructively to build up a better park and playground system as opportunity afforded from time to time to secure strategically located areas.

In addition to these definite steps much good can be accomplished through closer cooperation among the agencies concerned with recreation, namely, Park, School, Planning, and Board of Recreation. Surely each of these departments should not be compelled to proceed with its work unaware of what the others are doing. Legal compulsion should never be necessary to bring about this cooperation, however. A maximum of efficiency can best be achieved through voluntary and wholehearted teamwork, based upon a sincere desire to faithfully discharge the responsibilities inherent in each group, to the best interests of the city and of its citizens.

PART TWO

(Detailed Studies By Districts)

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Jamaica Plain	57	60	61
Roslindale	57	62	63
South Boston	64	66	67
West End	64	68	69
North End	65	70	71
South End	65	72	73
Roxbury	74	76	77
West Roxbury	75	78	79

BACK BAY

The Back Bay has only one acre of playground space for every 6,500 persons, compared with a city-wide average of one acre for every 1,300, yet the district has no really serious playground problem. The reason is that the ratio of children to total population is, by far, the lowest in Boston and child population density is only slightly higher than in West Roxbury and Hyde Park. Moreover, the trend of housing in the Back Bay has been such that settlement of large families with children in the district is not likely. Unless unforeseen developments occur, the creation of new playground facilities in the Back Bay, on a permanent basis, cannot be regarded as urgent.

Unserved children do not appear concentrated at present in such numbers as to warrant the taking of private property for playground purposes. There are, however, a few public parks where facilities for small children might be installed advantageously. One such play area might be set up on the easterly side of the Fens near Westland avenue, another in the Charles River Embankment, near Exeter street. The present need for these facilities should be ascertained before action is taken, since there is some reason to believe that the housing shortage has caused an increase in the number of small children in the district.

BRIGHTON

With seven large playgrounds having a total of 49 acres and spaced at nearly equal intervals of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, the children of Brighton would seem to be well served. However, three of these playgrounds, comprising 31 acres, are located so as to serve only 1,160 children, or only 14% of the total.

Accessibility of public playground space appears to be completely lacking in only two significant sections of the district, suggesting a need for two new general playgrounds. These should be centrally located in the areas bounded as follows:

1. Washington street, Faneuil street, Brooks street, Charles River, and Newton line;
2. Commonwealth avenue, Washington street, and Chestnut Hill avenue.

In addition, at least two new, small playgrounds appear to be necessary for "juniors" only. These should be located in the area bounded by Commonwealth avenue, Brookline line, and Strathmore road.

Unique opportunities exist for immediate creation of two of these four needed playgrounds. Vacant parcels, formerly intended as school sites and presently owned by the city, are located on Union street and Brainerd road and consist of 67,000 square feet and 26,000 square feet, respectively. If converted to playground use, the Union street site would provide service for 240 "juniors" and 200 "seniors" not served at present. The Brainerd Road site would serve 240 such "juniors".

Consideration should be given to the ample opportunity which exists for enlargement of the site of the David L. Barrett School, at Kingsley street and Travis street, owing to an abundance of vacant land adjacent to the school. The Strayer report on the Boston school system recommended that this school be continued in long-term use. A playground created at this location would not only serve physical education purposes at the school but would provide a better location for general play use than is possible at the Smith Playground, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the northwest.

CHARLESTOWN

Seven playgrounds, comprising as little as 11 acres, if properly placed, would provide minimum service for all Charlestown children, yet twelve existing play areas, with 24.3 acres altogether, are able to render such service to only 63% of the total. The map reveals that all of the principal playgrounds of the district are inefficiently located at the periphery, leaving at the center a solid core of nearly 1,300 unserved children. The child population density in Charlestown is high at 14.4 children to the gross residential acre and an ideally located playground would serve more than 1,000 children. By way of contrast, J. J. Ryan (Sullivan square) Playground serves 394; Barry Playground, 250; Vine and Hunter Streets Playground, 441; and Emmons (Rutherford avenue) Playground, 342.

Certain of these peripheral playgrounds, though of dubious value for recreation purposes, would serve admirably as industrial or business sites. Sale of at least one of them has already been proposed by the city government. The residential parts of the district being old and rather solidly built up, any desirable changes in the playground situation probably must await a large-scale program of rebuilding. It should be the city's policy at that time to bring about an indirect exchange of the present playgrounds for new areas, of improved accessibility.

Although the district has numerous small, vacant lots, opportunities to provide needed play space in the right locations are scarce. As a beginning, however, the following is suggested, with full realization that it is a poor substitute for the genuine program that only a rebuilding will make possible:

1. Creation of a new playground for small children on 16,000 square feet of vacant land at the head of Church court. Formerly the site of a Universalist Church and now used as a parking lot, this site would serve at least 250 children.

2. As an alternative to (1), conversion of a portion of Winthrop Square park, on Common street, to playground use for small children. This is recommended only as a temporary measure.

3. Acquisition of 7,000 square feet of vacant land on North Mead street, at Woods Place. This land abuts, at a higher level, the existing playground at Charlestown Heights. With a suitable connecting stairway it could be used as an apparatus or quiet games section of the playground, and will probably be needed, since a substantial part of the existing play space is to be devoted to a new swimming pool.

BACK BAY
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



BACK BAY
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15

- = 10 Children Not Served
- = 10 Children Served

BACK BAY
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served	660	226	886
Children Served	288	409	697
Total Child Population	948	635	1,583

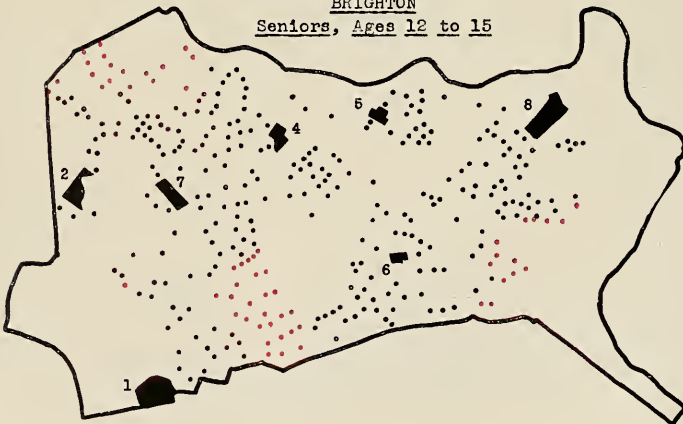
PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Back Bay	Living Outside Back Bay	Living in Back Bay	Living Outside Back Bay	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in Back Bay</i>						
1. J. Lee Plgd.			150	8	5.20	1.00
2. I. Allen Sch.	111				0.28	0.15
3. W. McKinley Sch.	51				0.41	0.14
4. M. Milmore Sch.	105				0.25	0.14
<i>Located Outside Back Bay</i>						
Boston Common (S. E.)			20			
W. E. Carter (Rox.)	6		199			
Mission Hill (Rox.)	15		40			
	288		409		6.14	1.43

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

BRIGHTON
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



BRIGHTON
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



• = 10 Children Not Served
 • = 10 Children Served

BRIGHTON
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

		Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served		1,533	572	2,105
Children Served		3,396	2,702	6,098
Total Child Population		4,929	3,274	8,203

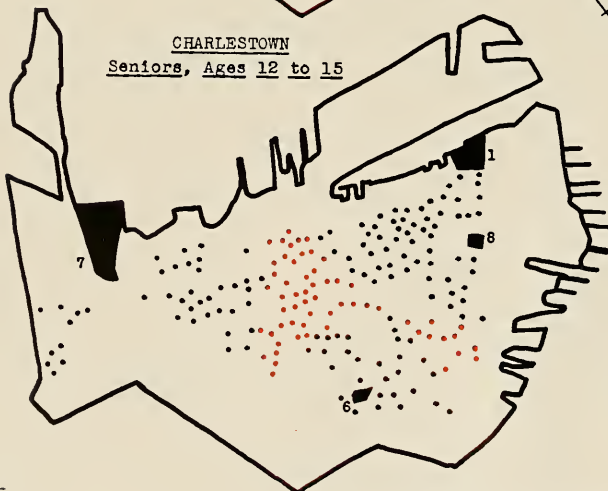
PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Brighton	Living Outside Brighton	Living in Brighton	Living Outside Brighton		
					Existing	Allocated*
1. Chestnut Hill Plgd.	84		170		3.55	1.14
2. A. E. Gallagher Plgd.	96		200		13.40	1.14
3. Hano Street Plgd.	112				0.50	0.15
4. McKinney Plgd.	458		514		5.94	2.40
5. Portsmouth Street Plgd.	289		238		4.29	1.39
6. S. A. Ringer Plgd.			556		2.32	1.91
7. Rogers Park Plgd.	269		552		5.00	2.27
8. W. F. Smith Plgd.	141		472		14.00	1.82
9. H. A. Baldwin Sch.	123				0.17	0.17
10. D. L. Barrett Sch.	190				0.39	0.26
11. T. Gardner Sch.	310				0.53	0.43
12. J. A. Garfield Sch.	386				0.83	0.53
13. A. Hamilton Sch.	187				0.64	0.26
14. Hobart Street Sch.	165				0.23	0.23
15. A. Jackson Sch.	301				0.90	0.41
16. Oak Square Sch.	135				0.19	0.19
17. W. Allston Sch.	150				0.24	0.21
	3,396		2,702		53.12	14.91

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

CHARLESTOWN
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



CHARLESTOWN
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



• = 10 Children Not Served
 • = 10 Children Served

CHARLESTOWN
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served	1,155	556	1,711
Children Served	1,620	1,294	2,914
Total Child Population	2,775	1,850	4,625

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Charlestown	Living Outside Charlestown	Living in Charlestown	Living Outside Charlestown	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in Charlestown</i>						
1. W. J. Barry.....Plgd.			250		5.27	1.00
2. Charlestown Heights..Plgd.	232				1.00	0.37
3. J. Harvard Mall.....Plgd.	135				0.20	0.19
4. Charlestown Housing.....	447				0.62	0.62
5. Mead Street.....Plgd.	111				0.29	0.15
6. Rutherford Avenue...Plgd.	52		290		1.07	1.07
7. Sullivan Square.....Plgd.			394		13.66	1.36
8. Vine and Hunter Sts..Plgd.	81		360		1.35	1.35
9. Bunker Hill.....Sch.	114				0.22	0.16
10. C. R. Edwards.....Sch.	180				0.25	0.25
11. Frothingham.....Sch.	120				0.17	0.17
12. McDonald and Prescott, Sch.	148				0.20	0.20
	1,620		1,294		24.30	6.89

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

DORCHESTER, NORTH

The playgrounds located within this district comprise only 9% of the total playground acreage in Boston, while North Dorchester has 18% of the children. To make matters worse, most of the larger playgrounds are located in the southerly half of the district, where child population density is lower and an abundance of play space in adjacent South Dorchester is accessible to many of the children.

Distribution of play space, both within North Dorchester and just outside its borders, is more favorable to older children than to the little ones and the statistics show 81% of the "seniors" served, but only 61% of the "juniors". Therefore, the principal need is for frequently located small children's play areas, especially in the northerly half of the district. More specifically, North Dorchester needs the following:

(a) New, or additional, play space for "juniors" only, centrally located in areas bounded as follows:

1. Dorchester avenue, Boston street, Columbia road, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, preferably as an addition to the Roger Clapp School site.

2. Dorchester avenue, Savin Hill avenue, Rapid Transit, Harbor View street, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

3. Columbia road, Quincy street, Bowdoin street, Hancock street, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

4. Columbia road, Midland Division of New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, Geneva avenue, Bowdoin street, Quincy street, $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ acre.

5. Dorchester avenue, Rapid Transit, Clayton street, Freeport street, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

6. Dudley street, Midland Division of New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, East Cottage street, Columbia road, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

7. Blue Hill avenue, West Cottage street, Dudley street, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

(b) New, or additional, play space for both "juniors" and "seniors", centrally located in areas bounded as follows:

1. Columbia road, East Cottage street, Pleasant street, Stoughton street, at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

2. Quincy street, Howard avenue, Julian street, Blue Hill avenue, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 acres, preferably adjacent to John Winthrop School.

3. Columbia road, Blue Hill avenue, Glenway street, Harvard street, at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

The existence of vacant land affords few chances to fill these needs, but the following is a list of proposals worthy of consideration:

1. Vacant land in the rear of property fronting on Washington street and Norwell street, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, privately owned, and assessed for \$14,000, would make a good playground for about 800 unserved children. The existing Ripley Playground, not far distant, has only 0.86 acre, is of poor proportions, too small for the use of "seniors", and incapable of expansion.

2. Vacant land on the opposite side of Dacia street, from John Winthrop School and playground, about 46,000 square feet if part of Dacia street itself is included, could be added to the existing play area with only minor filling and construction. This land is owned almost in its entirety by the city and would provide, in a good location, sorely needed space for 450 children. The site could be augmented by an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ acre at a future date, since this calls for taking of a few old dwellings. A really good neighborhood school and recreation development is possible at this location.

3. Vacant land at Winthrop street and Dennis street, comprising 18,000 square feet, would provide playground service for 300 "juniors" in a crowded, blighted section. Nearly half of this site is owned by the city through tax foreclosure.

4. Vacant land at Hillsboro street and Harrow street, comprising 28,694 square feet, most of which is owned by the city, is accessible to 350 unserved "juniors" and could be converted into a good playground at little cost.

5. Vacant land between Greenwich street and Fenton street, having an area of 24,000 square feet, would afford a level play area for 275 unserved "juniors" in a section needing rehabilitation.

6. A site of 23,500 square feet on Trull street, opposite Glen street, mostly vacant land but including one lot having a good house, would make a fine location for a small playground needed by 300 "juniors" in a good residential section. The necessity of demolishing the house stands as the only barrier to what is otherwise an excellent opportunity.

DORCHESTER, SOUTH

South Dorchester is first among the larger districts of the city both as regards playground area and percentage of children served. Indeed, with only 10% of the children, the district has 23% of the playground area of the city, enough space, if properly distributed, to serve more than half of the children in Boston.

On the whole, the playground and schoolyard space is well distributed, to wit, fewer than 10% of the children of the district do not live within walking distance of an adequate playground. On the other hand, it must be admitted that an equivalent service could be provided with far less playground space.

Unserved children appear in two significant concentrations, indicating desirability of general playgrounds for both "juniors" and "seniors", located centrally in areas bounded as follows:

1. Gallivan Boulevard, Adams street, Milton street, Granite avenue, Hill Top street, Hallet street, at least 1½ acres.
2. Cummins Highway, Midland Division of New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, Neponset River (area partly in Hyde Park district), at least 1½ acres.

Vacant land on Myrtlebank avenue, near Hill Top street, comprising about 2 acres, including portion of Myrtlebank avenue to be discontinued as a highway, would provide a playground for 360 unserved children, at a moderate cost. In addition to this, attention should be given to acquisition of a suitable playground site in the area bounded by Morton street, Washington street, River street, and Boston City Hospital Sanatorium. This area is only partially developed at present and has few children, but continued growth should be anticipated and provided for now.

HYDE PARK

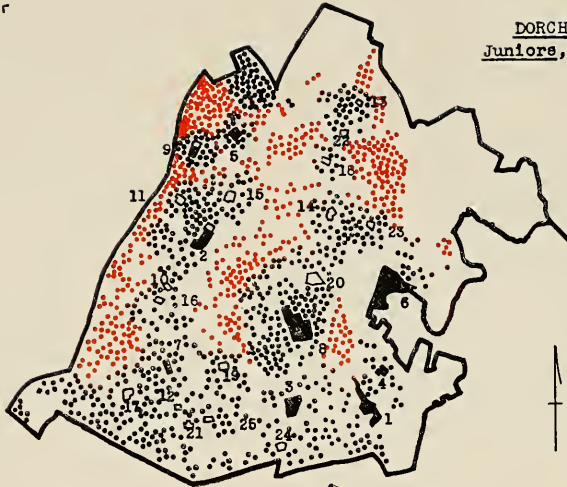
There are 37 acres of playground area in Hyde Park, providing a generous 8 acres for every 1,000 children. However, 36 of these 37 acres, distributed among four playgrounds, succeed in serving only ⅔ of the children in the district, owing to inappropriate locations.

Hyde Park, more than any other district of the city, appears as a cluster of well-defined neighborhoods. There are seven such neighborhoods in Hyde Park; according to sound planning principles there should be seven general playgrounds and probably also several small children's play areas. Playground service is lacking in three of these neighborhoods. One of them consists of the residential fringe surrounding the Hyde Park business area at Cleary square and is devoid of vacant land suitable for general playground use. The other two neighborhoods

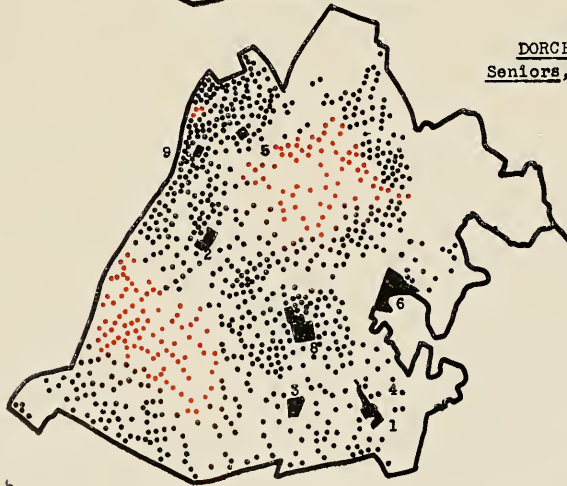
are to be found in the Fairmount section and to the northeast of the Wright Golf Course. There remains in both of these neighborhoods sufficient vacant land for the city to make an early and wise choice of playground sites. Development of both sections is proceeding and the time to act is now.

Opportunity exists to enlarge the sites of two of Hyde Park's elementary schools, the Weld School, on Highland avenue, and the Amos Webster School, on Hilton street. These schools are old and of wooden frame construction but are well located. An increase in population in the areas served by these schools will probably bring a demand for new school buildings. Proper development of school and recreation facilities requires additional site area, and the excellent vacant land adjoining these schools should be acquired without delay.

DORCHESTER, North
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



DORCHESTER, North
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



• = 10 Children Not Served
 • = 10 Children Served

DORCHESTER, NORTH

EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION

FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

		Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served		4,821	1,573	6,394
Children Served		7,672	6,755	14,427
Total Child Population		12,493	8,328	20,821

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Dorchester North	Living Outside Dorchester North	Living in Dorchester North	Living Outside Dorchester North	Existing	Allocated *
<i>Located in Dorchester, North</i>						
1. C. H. Alsen Plgd.	360	21	268	12	10.35	1.59
2. Ceylon and Dickerman, Plgd.	519		1,092		4.47	4.47
3. Gibson and Doherty . . Plgd.	327		380		5.81	1.76
4. Elm Street Plgd.	129		86		1.16	1.14
5. M. Hannon Plgd.	205		411		1.69	1.69
6. McConnell Plgd.	246		612		9.78	2.45
7. Ripley Park Plgd.	345				0.86	0.48
8. Ronan Park Plgd.	1,017		1,256		11.65	5.73
9. J. Winthrop Sch., Plgd.	216		388	46	1.79	1.79
10. Atherton Sch.	105				0.14	0.14
11. P. Brooks Sch.	183				0.25	0.25
12. Champlain Sch.	135				0.33	0.19
13. R. Clapp Sch.	120				0.16	0.16
14. E. Everett Sch.	270				0.37	0.37
15. B. Fenwick Sch.	222				0.30	0.30
16. Gibson Sch.	192				0.26	0.26
17. S. Greenwood Sch.	234				0.32	0.32
18. R. Humphrey Sch.	144				0.20	0.20
19. Marshall Sch.	156				0.21	0.21
20. Mather Sch.	393				0.54	0.54
21. F. Nightingale Sch.	186				0.64	0.26
22. W. Russell Sch.	234				0.32	0.32
23. Savin Hill Sch.	132				0.18	0.18
24. E. Smith Sch.	147	33			0.65	0.25
25. L. Stone Sch.	171				0.55	0.24
<i>Located Outside Dorchester, North</i>						
Columbus Park (S. B.)			648			
Cronin (D. S.)	81		156			
Wm. Eustis (Rox.)	537		504			
Franklin Field (D. S.)	444		778			
Hemenway (D. S.)	51		58			
G. Howes (Rox.)			112			
R. T. Paine (D. S.)	126					
T. J. Roberts (D. S.)			4			
Tenean (D. S.)			2			
Whittier (D. S.)	45					
	7,672		6,755		52.98	24.14

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

DORCHESTER, South
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



DORCHESTER, South
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



• = 10 Children Not Served
 • = 10 Children Served

DORCHESTER, SOUTH

EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11		Seniors Ages 12 to 15		Combined Ages 6 to 15	
Children Not Served	680		550		1,230	
Children Served	6,653		4,338		10,991	
Total Child Population	7,333		4,888		12,221	

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Dorchester South	Living Outside Dorchester South	Living in Dorchester South	Living Outside Dorchester South	Existing | Allocated	
					Existing	Allocated
<i>Located in Dorchester, South</i>						
1. Almont Street.....Plgd.	219		362	48	17.81	1.55
2. J. Cronin.....Plgd.	360	81	316	156	2.24	2.23
3. Dorchester Park.....Plgd.	126		374		5.40	1.46
4. Franklin Field.....Plgd.	560	444	844	778	60.00	6.97
5. W. H. Garvey.....Plgd.	366		360		16.68	1.75
6. M. Hemenway.....Plgd.	516	51	532	58	4.41	2.78
7. T. J. Roberts.....Plgd.	453		780	4	10.40	3.32
8. Tenean.....Plgd.	63		30	2	4.41	1.14
9. G. H. Walker.....Plgd.	348		728		6.21	2.99
10. Audubon.....Sch.	180				0.29	0.25
11. Baker and Logue.....Sch.	225				0.80	0.31
12. W. Bradford.....Sch.	363				9.50	0.50
13. S. Curran.....Sch.	108				0.15	0.15
14. T. J. Kenny.....Sch.	306				0.76	0.42
15. Leen and Burgess.....Sch.	177				0.24	0.24
16. S. Lewenberg.....Sch.	318				2.00	0.44
17. R. T. Paine.....Sch.	39	126			0.61	0.23
18. E. H. Richards.....Sch.	183				0.25	0.25
19. P. Shaw.....Sch.	103				0.64	0.14
20. G. Stuart.....Sch.	198				0.27	0.27
21. R. Swan.....Sch.	102				0.14	0.14
22. C. H. Taylor.....Sch.	162				0.25	0.22
23. F. V. Thompson.....Sch.	333				1.00	0.46
24. E. Tileston.....Sch.	81				0.74	0.14
25. J. Whittier.....Sch.	219	45			0.36	0.36
26. W. Wilson.....Sch.	261				0.82	0.36
27. R. Wolcott.....Sch.	221				0.30	0.30
<i>Located Outside Dorchester, South</i>						
C. H. Alsen.....(D. N.)	21		12			
Chittick.....(H. P.)	9					
E. Smith.....(D. N.)	33					
	6,653		4,338		137.68	28.43

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

HYDE PARK
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



HYDE PARK
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



• = 10 Children Not Served
 • = 10 Children Served

HYDE PARK

EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served	1,308	750	2,058
Children Served	1,470	1,120	2,590
Total Child Population	2,778	1,870	4,648

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Hyde Park	Living Outside Hyde Park	Living in Hyde Park	Living Outside Hyde Park	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in Hyde Park</i>						
1. Factory Hill.....Plgd.	135		124		5.20	1.14
2. Readville.....Plgd.	87		187		5.03	1.14
3. W. G. Ross.....Plgd.	183		473		13.03	1.88
4. Smith.....Plgd.	282		288		12.91	1.38
5. J. J. Chittick.....Sch.	135	9			0.20	0.20
6. Fairmount.....Sch.	204				0.28	0.28
7. E. Greenwood.....Sch.	183				0.25	0.25
8. W. B. Rogers.....Sch.	195				0.27	0.27
<i>Located Outside Hyde Park</i>						
Almont St.....(D.S.)			48			
P. Bates.....(Ros.)	21					
G. H. Conley.....(Ros.)	36					
S. M. Weld.....(Ros.)	9					
	1,470		1,120		37.17	5.63

*Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

EAST BOSTON

The statistics show that playground deficiency is more critical in East Boston than in any other district. This will continue to be true notwithstanding the recreation program of the State, which is admittedly intended only as a replacement of the facilities to be lost at Amerena Field and World War Memorial Park when these areas are absorbed by the airport. The two largest remaining playgrounds in the district, the Noyes and American Legion, are not centrally located and thus are capable of rendering only a limited service.

There are unserved children in every part of the district but the chief deficiencies occur in the most densely populated area southwest of Day square. This part of East Boston, inhabited by three fourths of the population, needs new or enlarged playgrounds in at least seven different locations. These may be generally described as follows:

(a) Approximately 3 acres of new playground space on at least two different sites in the Jeffries Point section, southeast of Orleans street. One of these should be for general use, the other for small children only. The needs of this section will be satisfied only in part by the new recreation area to be built by the State at the highway approaches to the airport.

(b) At least $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of new playground space on at least two different sites in the area bounded by Bennington street, Putnam street, Bremen street, Sumner street, and Border street. One of these should be for general use, the other for small children only.

(c) At least $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of new playground space on at least two different sites in the area bounded by Bennington street,

Putnam street, Condor street, and Border street. One of these should be for general use, the other for small children only.

(d) At least $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of new playground space on a single site in the area between Day square and Wordsworth street. This need may be filled in part by new recreation facilities to be built by the State on the water front in the vicinity of Trident street.

The scarcity of vacant land in suitable locations makes solution of East Boston's playground problem difficult. A satisfactory, permanent solution must probably await large-scale redevelopment of the district. In the meantime, as a temporary expedient, the City Planning Board recommends conversion of Belmont square and the site of the former Commodore Barry School opposite the square to playground use for small children. An area of 51,000 square feet is available on these sites to help relieve the critical situation in Jeffries Point.

As part of a more permanent program, the following should be considered:

1. Enlargement of Paris Street Playground, as soon as this becomes feasible, by taking of residential property on Paris street, Paris place, and Chelsea place. This playground is well located for efficient use.

2. Reclamation of additional land for recreation use by continued filling in of tidal flats between Harmony street and Moore street, together with taking of vacant land on Milton street opposite the site of the proposed filling. This would provide ample space for a general playground in the area between Day square and Orient Heights, where such facilities are needed at present.

JAMAICA PLAIN

Jamaica Plain, with nearly 6,000 children, has only two playgrounds larger than 1.5 acres and one of these, the Jefferson, lies on the Roxbury boundary and must be shared with that district. Moreover, at the time of this writing, nearly half of the Jefferson Playground has been sold for use as part of a hospital site. Four smaller playgrounds are well distributed, however, and achieve a tolerable situation for the district, 81% of the children being served.

The principal needs of the district could be met by creation of only two new playgrounds.

One of these should contain at least 1.5 acres in the vicinity of Spring Park avenue, at Burr street; such a playground would benefit about 400 unserved children. Unfortunately, no vacant land topographically suited to such a playground exists at present. The other playground, for which $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of vacant land is now available at the end of Kenton road and Gartland street, would serve 250 "juniors" not served at present. Consideration should be given to this latter proposal by further investigation and proper action, if warranted.

ROSLINDALE

Most of the playground space in Roslindale is concentrated on two large sites near the geographical center of the district and less than one half mile apart. These provide an admirable service for the children at the center but leave most of the peripheral area unserved.

The principal needs of the district could be met by the following measures:

1. Taking of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres or more of vacant land at the junction of Canterbury street and Poplar street. This was proposed by the City Planning Board 15 years ago and is still a sound proposal. A playground at this site would provide service for at least 250 children, now unserved.

2. Taking of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres or more of vacant land at Beech street and Farrington avenue. A playground here would provide new service for approximately 250 children.

If these proposals should be carried out there would still remain some minor concentrations of unserved "junior" children. However, in sections having low density single and two-family residence, such as Roslindale, it is difficult to regard such concentrations as constituting an urgent necessity for creation of new playgrounds, involving demolition of good structures, although the city should not neglect to provide the new playgrounds when well-located vacant sites appear.

EAST BOSTON
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



EAST BOSTON
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



- = 10 Children Not Served
- = 10 Children Served

EAST BOSTON

EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11		Seniors Ages 12 to 15		Combined Ages 6 to 15	
Children Not Served	2,905		2,356		5,261	
Children Served	3,829		2,133		5,962	
Total Child Population	6,734		4,489		11,223	

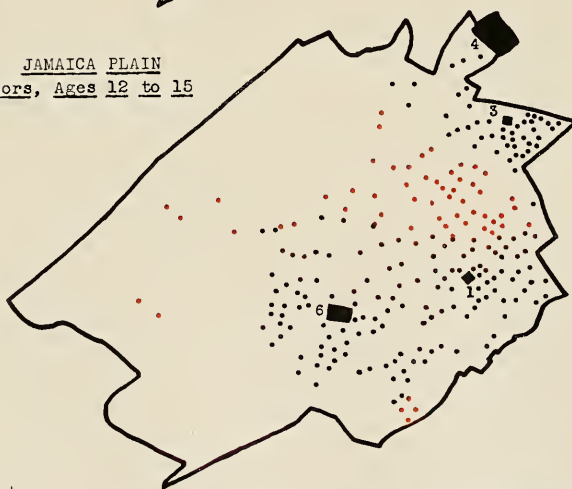
PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in East Boston	Living Outside East Boston	Living in East Boston	Living Outside East Boston	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in East Boston</i>						
1. American Legion . . . Plgd.	410	.....	818	.....	3.38	3.38
2. Bennington Street . . . Plgd.	201	.....		.....	0.43	0.28
3. East Boston Housing	179	.....		.....	0.25	0.25
4. McKay Sch. Plgd.	323	.....	566	.....	2.40	2.40
5. Noyes Plgd.	264	.....	442	.....	8.31	1.89
6. Paris Street Plgd.	154	.....	307	.....	1.27	1.27
7. S. Adams Sch.	255	.....		.....	0.35	0.35
8. Chapman Sch.	147	.....		.....	0.20	0.20
9. J. Cheverus Sch.	252	.....		.....	0.70	0.35
10. C. Guild Sch.	324	.....		.....	0.45	0.45
11. Kennedy and Emerson, Sch.	234	.....		.....	0.32	0.32
12. T. Lyman Sch.	147	.....		.....	0.20	0.20
13. H. R. O'Donnell Sch.	168	.....		.....	0.23	0.23
14. J. Otis Sch.	132	.....		.....	0.18	0.18
15. P. H. Sheridan Sch.	198	.....		.....	0.27	0.27
16. D. Webster Sch.	441	.....		.....	0.61	0.61
	3,829		2,133		19.55	12.63

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

JAMAICA PLAIN
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



JAMAICA PLAIN
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



• = 10 Children Not Served
 • = 10 Children Served

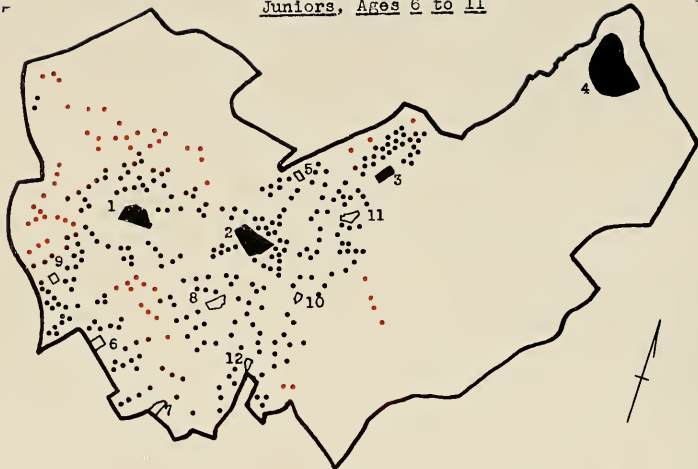
JAMAICA PLAIN
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

		Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served		555	584	1,139
Children Served		2,982	1,778	4,760
Total Child Population		3,543	2,362	5,905

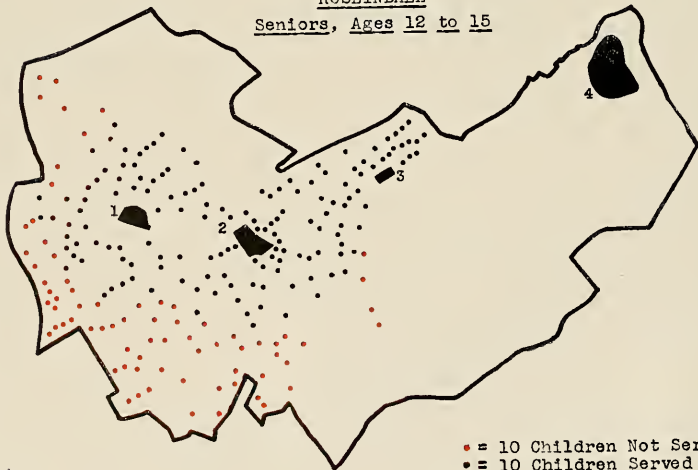
PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Jamaica Plain	Living Outside Jamaica Plain	Living in Jamaica Plain	Living Outside Jamaica Plain	AREA IN ACRES	
					Existing	Allocated
<i>Located in Jamaica Plain</i>						
1. Brookside Avenue . . . Plgd.	135		329		1.32	1.32
2. Paul Gore St Plgd.	420				0.74	0.58
3. J. F. Holland Plgd.	36		265	30	1.07	1.07
4. Jefferson Plgd.	48	508	139	456	7.51	2.81
5. Lamartine St Plgd.	564				1.00	0.78
6. J. W. Murphy Plgd.	669		788		4.17	3.63
7. Agassiz Sch.	123				0.17	0.17
8. M. E. Curley Sch.	210				1.29	0.29
9. Lowell Sch.	213	12			0.31	0.31
10. J. P. Manning Sch.	33				1.59	0.14
11. E. Mendell Sch.	138	6			0.20	0.20
12. Wyman Sch.	99				0.22	0.14
<i>Located Outside Jamaica Plain</i>						
J. J. Connolly (Rox.)			70			
Playstead (Ros.)	99		187			
L. Crocker (Rox.)	30					
T. Roosevelt (Rox.)	165					
	2,982		1,778		19.59	11.44

*Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

ROSLINDALE
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



ROSLINDALE
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



• = 10 Children Not Served
• = 10 Children Served

ROSLINDALE
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served	763	754	1,517
Children Served	2,549	1,454	4,003
Total Child Population	3,312	2,208	5,520

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Roslindale	Living Outside Roslindale	Living in Roslindale	Living Outside Roslindale	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in Roslindale</i>						
1. Fallon Field Plgd.	450		600		7.57	2.69
2. J. F. Healey Plgd.	402		528		9.63	2.15
3. F. Parkman Plgd.	270		326		2.06	1.49
4. Playstead Plgd.		99		802	36.00	2.90
5. H. Abrahams Sch.	66				0.37	0.14
6. P. Bates Sch.	284	21			0.52	0.42
7. G. H. Conley Sch.	120	36			0.56	0.21
8. W. Irving Sch.	282				0.85	0.39
9. Mozart Sch.	138				0.19	0.19
10. J. D. Philbrick Sch.	120				0.21	0.17
11. E. R. Seaver Sch.	252				0.46	0.35
12. S. M. Weld Sch.	150	9			0.26	0.22
<i>Located Outside Roslindale</i>						
P. F. Lyndon (W.R.)	15					
	2,549		1,454		58.68	11.32

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

SOUTH BOSTON

Ninety-five per cent of the playground acreage in South Boston is concentrated on two locations at opposite extremities of the district. This is an unsatisfactory condition because, although 37% of all the children are technically served by these two playgrounds, many of them must walk the long, limiting distances of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or $\frac{5}{12}$ mile, and large concentrations of children on each play area appear inevitable. The schoolyards and other playgrounds completing the system are large enough to furnish a limited service for "juniors" only. A better arrangement would be a more frequent distribution of moderately sized, general playgrounds for both "juniors" and "seniors".

The principal needs of the district may be stated as follows:

(a) General playgrounds for all children, centrally located in areas bounded as follows:

1. Columbia road, L street, Broadway, G street, at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.
2. Dorchester street, West Second street, B street, West Seventh street, at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

(b) Additional small play space, for "juniors" only, in the area bounded by Old Colony avenue, Dorchester street, West Seventh street, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

A parcel of 28,000 square feet of vacant land exists on the south side of East Fifth street, between G street and H street. This is a good level site, posing no serious problems, and should make an excellent playground for small children in a densely populated section not adequately served at present.

A site comprising 14,000 square feet of vacant land is available on West Eighth street, between D street and E street. Although it does not have ideal dimensions, this site could yet be advantageously used as a play area for small children in a section needing rehabilitation.

A vacant lot of 7,200 square feet could be annexed to the schoolyard of the Perry School, East Eighth street, at Columbia road. This school could make advantageous use of an enlarged yard and only minor construction at small cost would be necessary.

WEST END

The West End, like the North End, is a small, densely populated section served by one or two large, peripheral playgrounds and several scattered small play areas in the interior. This leaves the district well served in theory, but in practice a more balanced distribution of playground space would be far more satisfactory.

At the present time, vacant land suitable for conversion to playground use does not exist in the West End. Hence, proper distribution of play space must probably await a redevelopment of the district, if, indeed, its future status is to remain a residential one.

NORTH END

The density of child population in the North End was, in 1940, the highest by far among the districts of the entire city. On the other hand, this district is very small in area, so small, actually, that a single, centrally located playground would be within standard walking distance of every North End child. In so congested an area, however, it appears to be better practice to provide a few scattered playgrounds, in order to prevent the overtaking of a single facility and to hold walking distance to a minimum for the

great majority. With seven such public play areas at present, the North End's problem is not primarily one of accessibility but rather a matter of insufficient space.

The present needs of the North End could be met by central location of an additional 2 acres of playground space. However, a more satisfactory and permanent solution to the problem requires a redistribution of the present playground space and must await a rebuilding of the residential parts of the district.

SOUTH END

Although it is a congested area (110 persons per gross residential acre), the South End has a *child population density* not much higher than the average for all of Boston. This tends to minimize what would be otherwise an intolerable situation, for true to the form characteristic of all the older sections of Boston, the largest playgrounds of the South End are peripheral, with the interior served only by scattered, undersized schoolyards and play areas suitable only to a very restricted program.

Two very important factors limit the possibilities of playground system improvement in the South End. These are scarcity of available vacant land and frequency of traffic hazards. The South End, lying athwart numerous radial approaches to downtown Boston and crosstown routes as well, is a traffic problem area in its

entirety, and it is difficult to conceive of a playground system for the district which would have the quality of safe accessibility.

There is no easy solution to the South End's playground problem. As in the case of the North End and West End, a balanced and efficient system for the district will be attained only as part of a general program of rebuilding. Such a program should contemplate abandonment of the L. J. Rotch Playground in favor of a better site and the creation of at least two additional playgrounds, each having a minimum area of 2 acres.

For the present, some good would be accomplished by temporary conversion of Franklin square to playground use. This would be especially useful when the adjacent Cathedral Housing Project has been completed, bringing many new children into this section.

SOUTH BOSTON
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



SOUTH BOSTON
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



- = 10 Children Not Served
- = 10 Children Served

SOUTH BOSTON
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11		Seniors Ages 12 to 15		Combined Ages 6 to 15	
Children Not Served	1,919		928		2,847	
Children Served	4,170		3,120		7,290	
Total Child Population	6,089		4,048		10,137	

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in South Boston	Living Outside South Boston	Living in South Boston	Living Outside South Boston		
					Existing	Allocated *
<i>Located in South Boston</i>						
1. Rev. Fr. Buckley.....Plgd.	474				0.65	0.65
2. Columbus Park.....Plgd.			1,848	648	79.00	8.60
3. Old Colony Housing.....	375				0.52	0.52
4. Old Harbor Vill. Housing....	438				0.60	0.60
5. C. J. Lee.....Plgd.	597		1,272		5.20	5.20
6. M. J. Sweeney.....Plgd.	342				0.47	0.47
7. West Third St.....Plgd.	192				0.28	0.26
8. C. Burnham.....Sch.	111				0.15	0.15
9. Gaston.....Sch.	201				0.28	0.28
10. T. N. Hart.....Sch.	162				0.22	0.22
11. F. W. Lincoln.....Sch.	201				0.28	0.28
12. J. B. O'Reilly.....Sch.	270				0.37	0.37
13. M. J. Perkins.....Sch.	357				0.49	0.49
14. O. H. Perry.....Sch.	450				0.62	0.62
	4,170		3,120		89.13	18.71

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.



WEST END
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



WEST END
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15

• = 10 Children Not Served
• = 10 Children Served

WEST END
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11		Seniors Ages 12 to 15		Combined Ages 6 to 15	
Children Not Served	162		8		170	
Children Served	1,787		1,291		3,078	
Total Child Population	1,949		1,299		3,248	

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in West End	Living Outside West End	Living in West End	Living Outside West End	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in West End</i>						
1. Bowdoin.....Plgd.	123	.....	.....	.....	0.17	0.17
2. Charlesbank.....Plgd.	.....	.....	1,050	.....	15.50	3.61
3. M. Lomasney (1).....Plgd.	743	.....	.....	.....	1.10	1.02
4. M. Lomasney (2).....Plgd.	.....	.....	171	.....	1.47	1.00
5. P. Faneuil.....Sch.	290	15	.....	.....	0.42	0.42
6. Wells.....Sch.	435	.....	.....	.....	0.60	0.60
7. Winchell.....Sch.	196	.....	.....	.....	0.27	0.27
<i>Located Outside West End</i>						
Boston Common.....(S. E.)	.....	.....	70	.....	.....	.....
	1,787	.....	1,291	.....	19.53	7.09

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

NORTH END
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



NORTH END
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



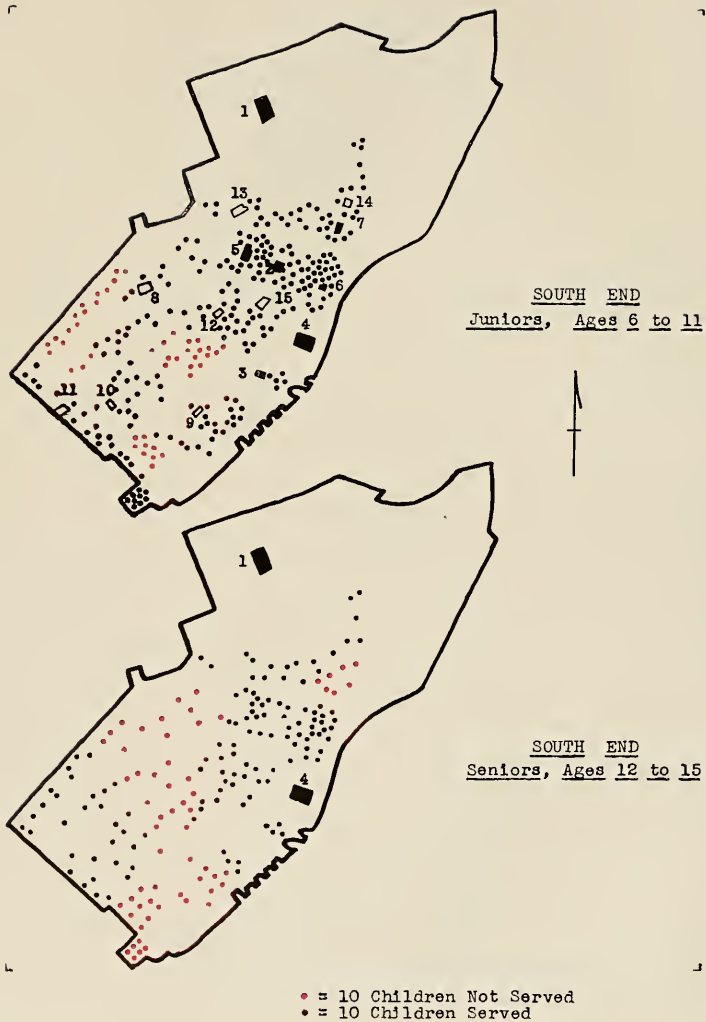
• = 10 Children Not Served
 • = 10 Children Served

NORTH END
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

		Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served		402	255	657
Children Served		1,719	1,160	2,879
Total Child Population		2,121	1,415	3,536

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in North End	Living Outside North End	Living in North End	Living Outside North End	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in North End</i>						
1. Charter St..... Plgd.	167				0.23	0.23
2. V. Cutillo..... Plgd.	348				0.48	0.48
3. Hancock †..... Plgd.	603				0.83	0.83
4. Health Unit..... Plgd.	195				0.27	0.27
5. North End Beach..... Plgd.			872		3.00	3.00
6. Prince St..... Plgd.	291				0.40	0.40
7. Snow Hill..... Plgd.	100		288		1.13	1.13
<i>Located Outside North End</i>						
P. Faneuil..... (W. E.)	15					
	1,719		1,160		6.34	6.34

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.
† Sold by city since compilation of these statistics.



SOUTH END
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

		Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served		470	596	1,066
Children Served		2,325	1,252	3,577
Total Child Population		2,794	1,848	4,642

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in South End	Living Outside South End	Living in South End	Living Outside South End	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in South End</i>						
1. Boston Common Plgd.			198	90	3.50	1.00
2. Cherry St. Plgd.	126				0.55	0.17
3. Malden St. Plgd.	99				0.21	0.14
4. L. J. Rotch Plgd.	216		728		2.80	2.80
5. Tobin Plgd.	222				0.41	0.31
6. Troy St. Plgd.	126				0.17	0.17
7. Tyler St. Plgd.	192				0.26	0.26
8. Bancroft and Rice Sch.	210				0.31	0.29
9. J. Bates Sch.	213				0.29	0.29
10. Dwight Sch.	183				0.25	0.25
11. Everett Sch.	87	85			0.28	0.28
12. Franklin Sch.	162				0.22	0.22
13. A. Lincoln Sch.	90				0.27	0.14
14. Quincy Sch.	126				0.17	0.17
15. J. J. Williams Sch.	84				0.29	0.14
<i>Located Outside South End</i>						
G. T. Angell (Rox.)	30					
W. E. Carter (Rox.)	51		326			
J. & J. Sullivan (Rox.)	108					
	2,325		1,252		9.98	6.29

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

ROXBURY

Roxbury, with $\frac{1}{6}$ of the children of Boston, has only $\frac{1}{14}$ of the playground acreage. Moreover, the full benefit of such playgrounds as the district has is seldom realized because of ill-advised locations. Thus, 55% of the playground space in Roxbury serves only 11% of all the children in the district, or only 17% of the *served children* in the district. As a densely populated area practically devoid of playground facilities, the section to the south and east of Dudley street and Washington street is without parallel in the city. Here is a square mile area with a child population of 7,200, but having within its boundaries only one playground, the Gertrude Howes, whose 1.88 acres are incapable of efficient use at present, owing to irregular topography.

The immediate needs of the district may be stated as three large playgrounds, two in the area just described and one near the Orchard Park housing development, plus two small playgrounds for "juniors", one as an addition to the foregoing, the other in the vicinity of Tremont street and Sterling street.

Roxbury affords little in the way of vacant land to fill these needs. Much of the district has a very irregular topography and this adds to the difficulty. There are, however, several public parks which could be converted advantageously to playground use. If this is done with proper design and maintenance, the characteristic aesthetic features of the parks, which make them so desirable, could be preserved in a large measure.

Washington Park, with nine acres directly opposite Levis Junior High School, and in the heart of a densely populated area, would be especially well adapted to such a conversion were it not for its rugged topography. A substantial

portion of the park, nearest to the school, is not hopeless, however. The intervening Paulding street has little practical use as a public highway and should be made part of the combined school-playground layout.

Horatio Harris Park (Walnut avenue at Townsend street) has for decades served unofficially as a substitute for a playground. Topography is a barrier to a complete conversion of this area to active play use, but a part could be developed for small children's play and the balance maintained as a park.

Madison Park, opposite Sherwin School, is advantageously located to provide playground service for many small children who reside in an area characterized by little open space and dangerous streets. The public schools report by Strayer recommended this also as a site for a new school to replace the several existing obsolete buildings in the vicinity. That portion of Sterling street lying between the Sherwin School and the park should be made part of the school and recreation site.

Orchard Park, containing more than 2 acres and surrounded by a public housing development, affords a chance to do something for 500 unserved "senior" children. This park has also the advantage of being adjacent to the Dearborn School, on a site recommended by the Strayer report as desirable for long-term school use.

The foregoing suggestions for use of parks as playgrounds are not intended as long-term proposals but are more in the nature of temporary expedients to ameliorate what is a really bad situation. The city should be alert to opportunities for a better solution, which may arise from time to time.

WEST ROXBURY

Because West Roxbury is the most newly developed district of the city and, moreover, is still growing, its pattern of development has not matured as has those of most of the other districts. An appraisal of the recreation facilities of West Roxbury must answer two questions:

1. Has the development of these facilities kept pace with the development of the district, to date?

2. Has allowance been made for the probable future growth of the district?

West Roxbury has been provided with only one large playground which is centrally located relative to the children served by it, namely, Billings Field. This has resulted in a situation where 57% of the "senior" children of the district are unserved. Since 65% of the unserved "seniors" live in a single, contiguous, rather solidly built-up area, and 25% in another similar area, it appears that playgrounds have not been developed at the same rate as the district. Nor have areas been acquired for future playground use in the sparsely built or undeveloped sections zoned for residence.

The present needs of West Roxbury are, fortunately, not acute, owing to low population density, with more than average open space around dwellings, and many vacant lots. However, it would be wise to provide, at the earliest opportunity, two new playgrounds in the area bounded by West Roxbury Parkway, Veterans of Foreign Wars Parkway, Needham Branch of

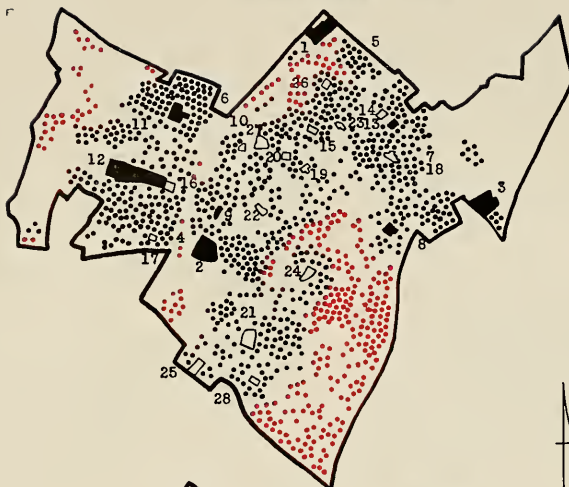
the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, and Centre street. A third playground should be located in the vicinity of Baker street and Joyce Kilmer road and a fourth near the junction of La Grange street and Cowing street.

In 1945 the city dedicated to playground use a parcel of 35,000 square feet on Bruce street. This as yet undeveloped site could be easily expanded by acquisition of vacant land adjacent thereto. Service could then be provided for nearly 300 unserved "senior" children in West Roxbury and Roslindale, as well as for many future inhabitants of the Hancock Village housing development, now under construction.

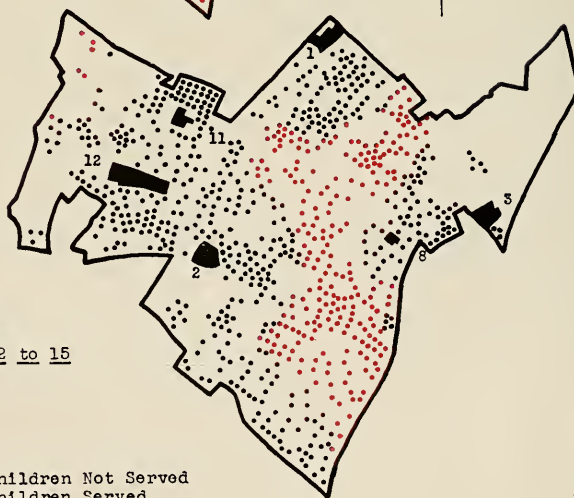
There is yet opportunity to establish a good playground adjacent to the Joyce Kilmer School, as recommended in the Strayer report. This section needs a playground at present and the need will be more urgent as the building of dwellings continues. Vacant land could now be acquired which, when added to the existing school site, would make possible a playground of at least 2½ acres, providing service for more than 400 unserved children. This should be done at the earliest moment.

A similar opportunity exists in the vicinity of La Grange street, at Cowing street, where there is considerable vacant land. As this section continues to develop, the need for a new elementary-grades school at this location will also be felt. A 2½-acre site could be acquired easily, making possible playground service for 250 unserved children and providing a good location for the future school.

ROXBURY
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



ROXBURY
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15



- = 10 Children Not Served
- = 10 Children Served

ROXBURY
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

		Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served		3,063	2,371	5,434
Children Served		8,386	5,262	13,648
Total Child Population		11,449	7,633	19,082

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOPYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in Roxbury	Living Outside Roxbury	Living in Roxbury	Living Outside Roxbury	Existing	Allocated*
<i>Located in Roxbury</i>						
1. W. E. Carter Plgd.	18	57	795	525	5.02	4.65
2. J. J. Connolly Plgd.	424		1,237	70	5.10	5.08
3. Wm. Eustis Plgd.	388	537	427	504	7.60	4.48
4. Heath St. Housing	182				0.25	0.25
5. Lenox St. Housing	125				0.17	0.17
6. Mission Hill Housing	443				0.61	0.61
7. Orchard Park Housing	335				0.45	0.45
8. G. Howes Plgd.	233		342	112	1.88	1.88
9. Highland Park Plgd.	349				1.02	0.48
10. King St. Plgd.	233				0.32	0.32
11. Mission Hill Plgd.	657	15	923	40	4.24	4.23
12. Parker Hill Plgd.	228		383		11.54	1.63
13. J. & J. Sullivan Plgd.	210	108			0.85	0.44
14. G. T. Angell Sch.	268	30			0.70	0.41
15. W. Bacon Sch.	189				0.26	0.26
16. C. Bulfinch Sch.	138				0.19	0.19
17. L. Crocker Sch.	174	30			0.28	0.28
18. Dearborn Sch.	466				0.96	0.64
19. Dillaway Sch.	285				0.39	0.39
20. Dudley Sch.	101				0.14	0.14
21. D. A. Ellis Sch.	845				1.50	1.16
22. N. Hale Sch.	357				0.49	0.49
23. Lafayette Sch.	276				0.38	0.38
24. Lewis Sch.	298				0.41	0.41
25. T. Roosevelt Sch.	51	165			0.30	0.30
26. Sherwin Sch.	116				0.16	0.16
27. Timilty Sch.	248				0.34	0.34
28. Williams Sch.	138				0.19	0.19
<i>Located Outside Roxbury</i>						
Everett (S. E.)	85					
J. F. Holland (J. P.)			30			
Jefferson (J. P.)	508		456			
J. Lee (B. B.)			8			
Lowell (J. P.)	12					
E. Mendell (J. P.)	6					
Playstead (Ros.)			615			
J. Winthrop (D. N.)			46			
	8,386		5,262		45.74	30.41

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.



WEST ROXBURY
Juniors, Ages 6 to 11



WEST ROXBURY
Seniors, Ages 12 to 15

• = 10 Children Not Served
• = 10 Children Served

WEST ROXBURY
EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Juniors Ages 6 to 11	Seniors Ages 12 to 15	Combined Ages 6 to 15
Children Not Served	576	758	1,334
Children Served	1,419	568	1,987
Total Child Population	1,995	1,326	3,321

PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLYARDS	JUNIORS SERVED		SENIORS SERVED		AREA IN ACRES	
	Living in West Roxbury	Living Outside West Roxbury	Living in West Roxbury	Living Outside West Roxbury	Existing	Allocated
<i>Located in West Roxbury</i>						
1. Billings Field..... Plgd.	120		438		10.83	1.67
2. Carroll Pond..... Plgd.	36				0.47	0.14
3. M. Draper..... Plgd.	66		130		5.76	1.14
4. Beethoven..... Sch.	63				0.20	0.14
5. J. Kilmer..... Sch.	111				0.57	0.15
6. P. F. Lyndon..... Sch.	240	15			0.35	0.35
7. R. G. Morris..... Sch.	153				0.52	0.21
8. R. Olney..... Sch.	138				0.35	0.19
9. S. W. Ripley..... Sch.	237				0.80	0.33
10. R. G. Shaw..... Sch.	129				0.25	0.18
11. H. Vane..... Sch.	126				0.22	0.17
	1,419		568		20.32	3.93

* Allowing juniors living within 1/4 mile radius, 60 square feet.
Allowing seniors living within 5/12 mile radius, 150 square feet.

